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Reaching out in Warsaw
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara shake hands with Jewish children while visiting a Warsaw synagogue on Friday. (Reuters)

US to present plan for 13% pullback in London

By HERB KEINON and news agencies

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright intends to officially present a US plan for a 13.1-percent pullback to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during their London meetings next month, senior government sources quoted Netanyahu as saying last night, during an inner-cabinet meeting at his residence.

The prime minister is expected to launch a last-ditch effort, in meetings this week with US envoy Dennis Ross and Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk, to dissuade the US from pursuing such a course.

Ross and Indyk arrived here last night and met shortly afterwards with Netanyahu at the prime minister's residence. The meeting lasted more than three hours.

The US officials are expected to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat today and again with Netanyahu.

Netanyahu also said he would tell Ross and Indyk that unless the size of a third redeployment is set, Israel would not agree to a second redeployment, a senior official said.

The official added that following the emotional impact of

Lebanon willing to discuss with Annan deployment in south

By HUSSEIN DAKROUB

BEIRUT (AP) - Lebanon is ready to negotiate with the UN the deployment of Lebanese troops following an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the Lebanese president was quoted as saying Friday.

In an interview with Beirut's leading newspaper *An-Nahar*, President Elias Hrawi reiterated Lebanon's rejection of Israel's demand to discuss security arrangements before a withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He said Lebanon was willing to discuss with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan the deployment of units from Lebanon's 35,000-strong army in the south following an Israeli withdrawal.

"If the secretary-general wants to negotiate with me (on the Lebanese army deployment), I am ready," Hrawi was quoted as saying.

Lebanon and Syria have rejected Israel's conditional withdrawal offer which was made earlier this month, insisting that UN Resolution 425 calls on Israel to unconditionally withdraw from the 10 percent of Lebanese territory it now occupies.

"If the Israelis want to sit at a table to negotiate on how to withdraw, this is not our problem."

Lebanese boy reported wounded, Page 2

Israel has invaded Lebanon," Hrawi was quoted as saying.

Also Friday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Soueiz said Lebanon rejected any attempt to amend Resolution 425. *1am adds:*

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur met over the weekend with EU envoy Miguel Angel Mauritanos and the Cypriot Foreign Minister and asked them to convey messages to Syria and Lebanon regarding the 425 initiative.

Reuters adds from Teheran: Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam arrived in the Iranian capital yesterday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Shara for talks on issues including Israel's offer to withdraw from Lebanon, the official news agency IRNA said.

Swiss release Mossad agent arrested for wiretapping

News agencies

ZURICH - A suspected Mossad agent has left Switzerland after being released on bail over a bungled wiretapping mission in the country, a federal magistrate said yesterday.

He arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday evening on an Arkia flight.

Investigators finished questioning the suspect, who has not been publicly identified, on Friday and accepted the Israeli government's promise that he would return to Switzerland to face justice, the magistrate said in a statement.

The agent, 44, was suspect of committing "illegal activities for a foreign state... illegal political espionage as well as espionage against a foreign state," the statement said.

"The investigation of the facts has been brought to a close so that no more danger of collusion exists," the statement said.

It added Switzerland also had received a "significant financial bond" before freeing the man, who was nabbed with four others in February, as they planned a wiretap in the Bern suburb of Liebfeld. The amount of the bond was not revealed.

Israel Radio reported that the release was worked out quietly by Ephraim Halevy, the new Mossad chief. Itim reported that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein also had been involved.

The five were suspected of trying to eavesdrop on a Lebanese man who was thought to live there. Press reports have suggested the man may be linked to Hizbullah.

The federal magistrate's statement said the suspected agent had acknowledged during questioning that he had been willing to break Swiss wiretapping laws in a bid to save lives and prevent more lethal attacks on Israel by Hizbullah.

The statement gave no further details because of the need to protect the integrity of the continuing investigation, it added.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak welcomed the Swiss move.

"The government of Israel receives this statement with satisfaction," Bazak said. He declined to make any further comments.

The target of the operation, a car dealer who lives in western Switzerland but whose ex-wife lives in the building whose phones were tapped, has denied any link to Hizbullah.

Earlier this month, Swiss Federal Prosecutor Carla del Ponte said the targeted person hadn't denied "sympathies with certain organizations."

The magistrate took over the investigation from Del Ponte's office earlier this month.

This agent was detained because a diplomatic bag in his possession contained espionage tools, authorities said earlier this month. The other four suspects arrested at the time were immediately released after police questioned them and they fled the country. An investigation into them is still open.

The case strained normally good relations between Switzerland and Israel.

But Swiss President Flavio Cotti decided earlier this month to go ahead with a visit to Israel in May despite the incident.

The cabinet in Bern agreed Cotti should make the trip, which includes visits to Jordan and the Palestinian-controlled areas, after Israel quickly apologized.

Cotti's trip will be the first visit to Israel by a Swiss minister since 1985.

One day before unveiling, currency reform still bone of contention

By DAVID HARRIS

One day ahead of its scheduled unveiling, the government's currency liberalization plan is still the subject of much controversy, lobbying and manipulation.

Over the weekend, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom called on the government to halt the launch of the plan until the Bank of Israel sharply reduces interest rates.

But a source close to the negotiations said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has no intention of heeding Shalom's call.

Describing the idea as "economically nonsensical," the source said that fears the plan would lead to capital flight were unfounded.

"On the contrary, if you do reduce interest rates radically there is likely to be capital flight," he said.

Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper on Friday also attacked the shift to full convertibility, saying the country is not ready for such liberalization. He warned that some \$14 billion-\$20b. of so-called hot money could flow from the country overnight.

Despite such pressures, a Treasury official last night confirmed that the announcement of the liberalization measures will take place this week - "the question is when. Tomorrow [Sunday] the fog should clear - I hope."

For the time being the Prime Minister's Office has tomorrow afternoon pencilled into its diary as the likely time for the announcement.

Last night Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel met in an attempt to ease Treasury unhappiness with a plan to remove restrictions on foreigners dealing in shekel options and futures-trading via means of a commercial bank.

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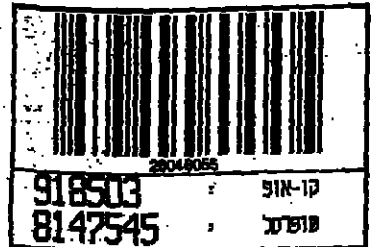
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NEWS

in brief

Gore to meet Arafat in Ramallah on Saturday

US Vice President Al Gore is scheduled to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah on Saturday, the White House said on Friday.

Gore will meet Arafat in the middle of a four-day journey to the Middle East that will include a two-day stay in Israel to mark the 50th anniversary. He also will visit Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Gore's visit to Ramallah will take place two days before Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are to hold separate meetings with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London. *Reuters*

Ben-Elissar to be reassigned French ambassador

Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, the ambassador to Washington, will be reassigned to France in the summer after serving only two years in the job, a Foreign Ministry official said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked Ben-Elissar to accept the transfer, and the diplomat accepted on Friday, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On.

Ben-Elissar has been without a mentor in the Netanyahu government since the resignation several months ago of Foreign Minister David Levy. There have been frequent tensions between Ben-Elissar and Netanyahu, and the prime minister reportedly is interested in giving the choice job to one of his loyalists. *AP*

Savir: Peace deal with Syria was close

The government was on the brink of reaching a peace agreement with Syria two years ago, former chief negotiator Uri Savir said Friday. Savir said a secret negotiating channel had been set up after Syrian President Hafez Assad responded verbally and "positively" to an Israeli call for establishing full diplomatic relations. According to Savir, then-prime minister Shimon Peres had sent two letters to Assad - written on official stationery - calling for the sides to reach a peace agreement. The letters and Assad's response were relayed by US special envoy Dennis Ross. In a book to be published next week, Savir for the first time divulges that, following the exchange of messages, the two sides held secret meetings in Washington to try and hammer out an agreement. *AP*

Mevasseret to go on strike

A general strike has been called in Mevasseret Zion for this morning in protest against plans to annex the area. Spokeswoman Margalit Toledano said the strike would begin at 7:30 a.m., when a big rally is planned for Rabin Square near the bridge over the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway. All schools, transportation, and streets are to be closed. *Elli Wohlgelemer*

Hamas calls on Sudan to help repair relations

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked Sudan to help repair his relations with Hamas following the assassination of bombmaker Muhva Sharif, Jordanian parliamentarian Jamda Farana, who met with Arafat last week in Gaza, said he delivered a message from Arafat to the Sudanese leadership asking for mediation. Farana told Israel Radio's Arabic Service that he was invited to visit Sudan by government leaders there and delivered Arafat's message to President Omar Bashir and Islamic leader Hassan Turabi. Other Islamic leaders will also be in Khartoum. Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish will also be part of the mediation effort, sources said. *Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib*

Israel, Jordan, PA seek infiltrator

The IDF, Palestinian Police and Jordanian Army searched the area around the village of Ouja, near Jericho, on Friday afternoon, after signs were found that someone had entered Israel from Jordan. Security forces found footprints of one person at the border that were pointed toward Ouja, which is under PA control. *Itim*

Antiquities Authority office burns down

The Antiquities Authority's office in Nahalal was completely burned down on Friday. Police suspect that it was arson and are investigating the incident. *Itim*

Yassin: Israel was involved in Sharif murder

Hamas spiritual mentor Sheikh Ahmed Yassin accused Israel of involvement in the assassination of bombmaker Muhva Sharif, and promised to retaliate, according to remarks quoted Friday in Egyptian newspapers. Speaking in Doha, Qatar, Yassin said: "Paid Israeli agents were involved in Sharif's murder. We know our enemies well, and will respond at the proper time. 'Hamas actions against the Israeli army and armed settlers will continue, and suicide attacks will be our response to any harm to Palestinian citizens by the Zionist entity,'" he said. *Itim*

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and all the family

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RENÉ WEIL ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, April 26, 1998 (30 Nisan 5758) at the Har Tamir funeral home at 2 p.m. Shiva at 16B Sokolov St., Jerusalem

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Children: Josiane and Dov Paris;
Lisou and Michel Levy
Grandchildren: David, Nathaniel, Yael, Myriam,
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Sister: Adele Schmidt

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MORRIS ABERBACH ז"ל

Wife: Jennie Aberbach
Children: Elliott and Arlene Aberbach
David and Eva Aberbach
Adele and Stanley Schneider
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Sister: Helen Kasdan
Shiva observed at: Schneider, Rehov Graetz 7, Jerusalem, until Thursday morning 30 April 1998
Shaharit: 6:30 a.m.; Mincha: 7:05 p.m.

US congressman:

Iran's Israel-range rockets nearly ready

By STEVE RODAN

A leading US congressman says Iran is as little as a year away from completing and deploying a medium-range ballistic missile capable of striking Israel and accused the Clinton administration of not doing enough to stop Tehran's program.

Rep. Curt Weldon, chairman of the House Military Research and Development Subcommittee, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he also is trying to obtain briefings from the Clinton administration concerning reports that Iran already has received nuclear weapons from the former Soviet Union.

Weldon said the US must move quickly to stop the Iranian missile and nonconventional weapons programs and help Israel develop a system to defend against ballistic missiles.

"The Iranians are 12-18 months away from completing and deploying a missile," said Weldon on Friday, echoing Israeli assessments of Iran's missile program. "This is absolutely unacceptable. Time is of the absolute essence. We need to close the window. We have a window of vulner-

ability that most affects Israel. We are going to have to have an anti-ballistic missile system."

Weldon, whose subcommittee is part of the House National Security Committee, said the White House is not cracking down on Russian aid to Iran's military programs. He pointed out that in January then-Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin issued a directive against the unauthorized transfer of military technology, but the parliament has failed to codify this into law.

"I went to Russia 14 times," said Weldon, chairman of the congressional parliamentary group, an organization that reaches out to its Russian counterparts. "I know the Russians and have contacts in every faction of the Duma [Russian parliament]. The Russians are trying but we must hold Russian entities accountable. It doesn't embarrass Yeltsin if we sanction Russian companies if they transfer technology."

Weldon said the Russia has violated the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime seven times in the last six years. The congressman has drafted the Iranian Missile

Proliferations Sanctions Act, which overwhelmingly passed in the House, has 82 cosponsors in the Senate, and would sanction any company that helps Iran's missile programs.

The bill is opposed by the Clinton administration, which says such legislation would undermine the government of President Boris Yeltsin and turn Russia against the US.

Vice President Al Gore said the Russian government over the past few months has taken vigorous steps to combat illegal technology transfers to Iran.

In his interview with the *Post*, however, Weldon said he is not impressed.

"I was invited to briefings and breakfast with Gore," he said. "I told him the Russians are moving but they have to be held to the fire. They won't do it by themselves. We have about 400 signatures for the Iranian Missile Proliferations Sanctions Act in the House. Now, it's ready to go to the Senate and the administration is doing all it can to prevent it from getting there."

Weldon said the administration

has so far soft-pedaled on Russian companies that Washington deemed as MTCR violators.

He pointed to a US list of 20 Russian agencies and research facilities, which have received US funds, and were found to have provided missile technology to Iran. At first, US officials said these Russian bodies would no longer receive monies from the annual \$50 million in funds to help them and other institutions formerly involved in Soviet weapons work.

The State Department, however, backtracked and said on April 16 that the 20 Russian companies are not banned from receiving US aid but would receive what a spokesman termed "extra scrutiny" in future applications for aid from Washington.

"They [in the administration] did this in a cute way so they won't be told they'll lose their funding," Weldon said. "This administration hasn't done anything on proliferation. It has this attitude of just sitting around the campfire and singing about it. But that's it."

Weldon said he is trying to

obtain new information from the Clinton administration on the reports in the *Post* that Iran, according to documents possessed by Jerusalem and Washington, obtained nuclear weapons from Kazakhstan in 1992. He pointed to the assertions of two US House members, Bill McCollum and James Saxton, that Iran already has such weapons.

"The administration is denying the information in them and the assertions by Congressmen McCollum and Saxton," he said. "I am trying to get more information. Meanwhile, to extend the ABM Treaty to states like Kazakhstan, which has been selling nuclear material to Iran, is just totally ridiculous."

Weldon said his latest battle is to ensure that the Clinton administration restores funding for anti-ballistic missile defense programs. He said despite White House declarations, the administration has cut money for such programs as the THEL, aimed at shooting down short-range rockets such as Katyushas with lasers.

"I blame this administration for a lack of commitment to the devel-

Moledet coalition talks to resume

By SARAH HONIG

The negotiations geared to bringing Moledet into the coalition are slated to resume this week, though it is far from certain when they might be concluded.

This week is full of intensive diplomatic activity for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, culminating in his visit to Egypt on Tuesday. Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and Independence Day will also cut into the talks.

Speaking on Channel 2's *Meer the Press* program yesterday, Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi judged the chances of his party actually joining the coalition as "50-50."

Ze'evi conceded that, like his party's other MK, Benny Elon, he, too, has "many great problems with the notion of being bound to vote confidence in a government with whose policies on Oslo I disagree."

"I had to do a great deal of soul-searching and I engaged in much arguing with myself. Finally I asked, what would be better? Would it be preferable to stay outside the government, vote 'no-confidence' in it and possibly help to bring it down? Our so-called reward then would be to get a government led by [Labor Party Chairman Ehud] Barak and [Meretz leader Yossi] Sarid."

"The alternative is to strengthen a government which is ideologically far closer to us, though we do not fully share its views. If we join that government we could bolster those forces more akin in outlook to us and we could help prevent moves we judge as grave mistakes," Ze'evi explained.

He went on to state that "perhaps our entry into the coalition will result in changing the nature of whatever withdrawals are being contemplated, or in preventing them altogether." The main problem encountered by Netanyahu and Ze'evi is how to reconcile Netanyahu's demand that Moledet's two MKs be bound to vote confidence in the government with Elon's reservations about, as he put it, "voicing confidence in a government which cedes any part of Eretz Yisrael."

Elon hotly denied that he is at odds with Ze'evi over entering the coalition but political observers have discerned a distinct difference in emphasis in the statements by the two.

Both Moledet MKs deny there is any chance of a split between them.



Palestinians recall Kastel battle

Palestinian scouts play their national anthem as hundreds of Palestinians gathered yesterday in A-Ram to commemorate the 1948 battle at the Kastel, in which Arab leader Abdul-Khader Hussein was killed during the Israeli victory. *(Reuters)*

Lebanese boy reported wounded in SLA fire

By DAVID RUDGE

A Lebanese boy was reported to have been wounded in Kafra village, north of the security zone, yesterday as a result of South Lebanese Army shelling during exchanges in the region.

The incident occurred after Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars from the outskirts of Kafra village at the SLA's Rashaf position in the zone's western sector.

Senior security sources said that on several occasions in the past few days Hizbullah gunmen had fired from within or near villages north of the zone in blatant breach of the Operation Grapes of Wrath understandings.

On Friday evening, mortars were fired at the IDF's Karkum position, which also is located in the zone's western sector, causing some damage to the outpost but no casualties. The mortar fire originated from the outskirts of Yatar village, not far from Kafra.

The security sources said that the origin of the mortar firing was clearly identified from the outskirts of Kafra village.

There were no casualties among the SLA troops manning the Rashaf position as a result of the long-range attack, and SLA gunmen returned fire. According to reports from Lebanon, a boy was wounded in Kafra village from the shelling.

Mortars were also fired at other SLA positions in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday, without causing any casualties or damage. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

There has been a marked increase in the number of long-range attacks by Hizbullah and Amal on IDF and SLA positions in the zone over the past few months.

Military sources said Hizbullah was encountering difficulties in penetrating the zone to plant explosive devices and lay ambushes, and was concentrating instead on firing from a long distance, often using houses on the outskirts of villages as cover for its mortar crews.

On Friday, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group concluded its discussions into three complaints by Israel and a similar number from Lebanon over breaches of

the understandings that ended the cross-border fighting in April 1996.

The five-nation committee recognized that Hizbullah was responsible for planting a roadside bomb between Markabeh and Huleh villages earlier this month. The bomb blast killed a Lebanese civilian and wounded three others.

The IDF spokesman said the monitoring group determined that mortar fire at Rehav village, in the eastern sector of the security zone, in which a young woman was injured, and the

shooting of mortars from Nabaitya al-Fawka village, north of the zone, in the past few weeks were the responsibility of the Lebanese authorities.

The spokesman said that the committee briefly stopped its discussions at 10 a.m. last Thursday to enable Israel's delegation to respect the victims of the Holocaust.

The meeting was the last one to be attended by the head of Israel's delegation to the monitoring group, Brig.-Gen. David Tsur, who is leaving his post.

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Mubarak, Assad hold talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday held talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad on the peace process, immediately after arriving in the port city of Latakia on a previously unannounced visit.

Presidential spokesman Jouban Kourieh said the talks, held at the resort palace in Latakia, some 350 kms. north of Damascus, covered "the situation in the region and the peace process."

"The talks also covered contacts that both states are holding regarding the peace process," Kourieh said.

He did not give details, but diplomats said the two leaders were continuing the lengthy talks they held in Cairo on April 15, which covered Israel's proposals for a conditional withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Mubarak and Assad, whose

country keeps 35,000 troops in Lebanon and is the main foreign power-broker there, rejected the Israeli conditions for a pullback, and said Israel should implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Lebanon has also said Israel's proposals, calling for Lebanese security guarantees and other conditions, were unacceptable.

Kourieh said the closed-door meeting between Assad and Mubarak was followed by an expanded one attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, and on the Syrian side by Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

Syria's official newspaper *Al-Baath* on Friday accused Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to change UN resolutions and the principles on which the Arab-Israeli peace talks were based.

It said the Israeli inner cabinet's decision on conditional withdrawal, adopted on April 1, was "part of Netanyahu's misleading policies."

"It has become clear that since coming to power, Netanyahu has been trying to cancel the principles on which the peace process was based - namely the land-for-peace principle," *Al-Baath* said.

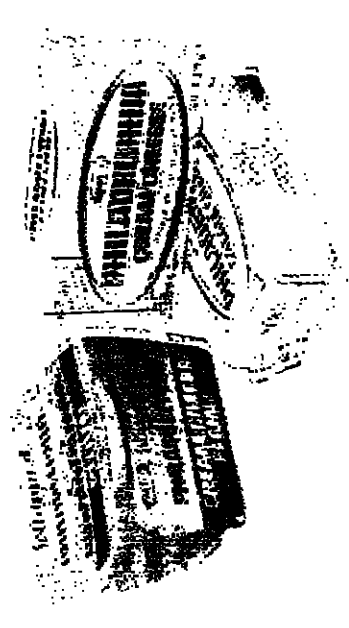
"We want to remind that the region would never see stability and security if a just and comprehensive peace is not achieved on the basis of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle," it added.

"Israel's attempts to impose the status quo will face nothing but total failure," the paper said.

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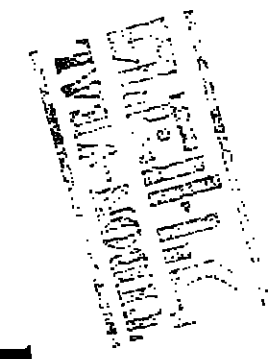
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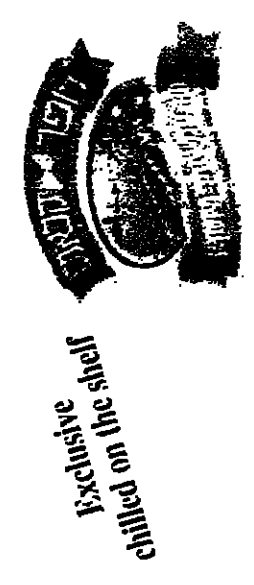
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US senator warns TAAS, PM not to circumvent US assault-weapons ban

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - US Senator Dianne Feinstein has warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that TAAS-Israel Industries' attempt to circumvent US President Bill Clinton's ban on importing assault weapons would be a "slap in the face" and a sign of "utter disrespect."

She called on him to quash any

effort to undermine Clinton's executive order, signed on April 6. TAAS is reportedly considering jointly producing and marketing Uzis through Mossberg, the New Haven-based gun manufacturer.

After reports earlier this month that TAAS would try to avoid the ban by manufacturing Uzis in the US, Feinstein's staff met with Israeli Embassy officials who, she said, claimed the reports were "not

accurate" and that "no decisions" were made.

In a letter to Netanyahu last week, Feinstein wrote that it is her "sincere hope" that those assurances are true.

"If they are not, this decision, which the newspaper said has the stamp of approval of your Defense Ministry, would be a blatant slap in the face to President Clinton," Feinstein wrote. "It would also be a sign of utter disrespect for the

lives and safety of the American people....

"I seek your categorical assurances that Israel will not seek to evade the president's executive order by making arrangements to manufacture Uzis or other Israeli-designed assault weapons in the US."

Feinstein referred to Netanyahu's letter to her on the matter last autumn, stating that Americans' lives are of "grave

concern" to him.

A TAAS-Mossberg deal, therefore, would be "wholly inconsistent with the sentiment you expressed to me," Feinstein wrote last week.

An embassy official said Thursday that TAAS informed the embassy, which in turn informed Feinstein recently, that "there is no intention, and no decisions made, to manufacture Uzis in the US."

Swiss paper: Framework decided for global settlement of Holocaust claims

News agencies

ZURICH - Swiss commercial banks, Jewish organizations and lawyers for class-action claimants have agreed to a basic framework for a global settlement of claims by Holocaust victims, according to a Swiss newspaper report yesterday.

A basis paper envisages that the US, Swiss and Israeli governments - as well as all major US Jewish organizations - will be called on to formally give their approval to a settlement, said the Zurich daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*.

A first round of negotiations starts tomorrow in Washington and will be overseen by US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat. Negotiations are expected to drag out for several weeks or months.

It follows last month's "breakthrough" agreement by major Swiss banks to negotiate a global settlement of claims by Holocaust victims.

There was no mention of a sum in the agreement. US state and municipal financial chiefs agreed to continue a suspension of sanctions on major Swiss banks pending the outcome of the talks.

According to the basis paper, the banks would pay a "rough justice amount" into a "class action victim's distribution fund," *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* said.

The figure remains to be negotiated - \$1 billion has been widely mentioned in the media, although World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman has said \$3b. is the target.

The newspaper also said a settlement would put observers on two panels already investigating Switzerland's wartime past - an independent commission of historians and a committee under former US Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker investigating claims to Holocaust-era assets in Swiss banks.

The banks are keen to ensure that these groups continue their

work, and both sides would have to agree to accept the Volcker Committee's conclusions, the newspaper said.

The class-action lawyers would agree to make available to the committee the names of the claimants they represent, it added.

New York City and other key states barred Swiss banks from government business last year to press them to return any assets of Nazi victims or their heirs. In December they suspended the sanctions for three months to see what progress the banks were making.

The Clinton administration has praised Switzerland for its efforts and repeatedly opposed sanctions. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* also published an interview yesterday with Melvyn Weiss, one of the lawyers who have taken the Swiss banks to court in a multibillion-dollar class-action lawsuit on behalf of Holocaust claimants.

"If in the end we cannot agree on sums of money, the progress so far is actually worthless," it quoted Weiss as saying on the subject of the negotiations.

The Swiss government and central bank have stressed that they were uninvolved in the New York deal.

Meanwhile, the Swiss insurer Zurich Group said on Friday it had set up an independent panel, including a rabbi, to review claims it withheld life insurance policies from Holocaust victims or their heirs.

Zurich is one of several large European insurance companies being probed by US insurance regulators - and sued in a US court - over allegations they withheld policies sold before 1946 to Jewish clients and others persecuted by the Nazis.

Zurich said its four-person "Commission of Eminent Persons" included a Holocaust survivor, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, senior rabbi of Park East Synagogue in New York.



Israel Bonds group arrives for jubilee

An Israel Bonds delegation celebrates Shabbat at the Western Wall after arriving in the country on Friday. The delegation of some 1,000 members is the largest group to visit for the jubilee celebrations.

Soldier's body found a week after suicide

The body of soldier Eli Levy, 19, of Jerusalem, was found Friday in Haifa's Sprinkak neighborhood, a week after he apparently committed suicide by shooting himself with his M-16 rifle.

The body was found near the home of his girlfriend, who had recently broken off their relationship, and police said this is probably the motive for the suicide.

One of the girlfriend's neighbors said that on the afternoon of April 17 she heard a shot, and some time later found a bullet that had penetrated the wall of her home. She called police, and the police took the bullet from her.

Levy's body, however, was not found until Friday, when a traffic inspector who lives in the area noticed a soldier's backpack in the wadi nearby. He called police, who found the body and the rifle after a brief search.

It is not clear what action, if any, police took after taking the report and the bullet from the neighbor. The Haifa police spokesman said "the matter would be investigated in full on Sunday."

Two dead in weekend traffic accidents

Daoud Nabil, 52, a resident of Rama village, was killed Friday in a road accident at the Shezot intersection in the western Galilee.

Near Lake Kinneret, an unidentified bicyclist was struck by a car on the road between Kfar Nahum and the Arif Bridge. He later died from his injuries.

A total of eleven people were killed in 666 road accidents last week, according to Magen David Adom statistics. Nine others were seriously injured. Nabil was reportedly driving eastward in a privately-owned Suzuki on the Karmiel-Safed road when his vehicle was struck head-on by a tow truck. Police said they were investigating the crash.

The victim in the Lake Kinneret accident was transferred to Rambam Hospital in Haifa, and

died near midnight on Friday.

Police have called for the public's help in identifying him. They described him as being 20-30 years old, 1.3 meters tall, light skinned and having curly brown hair, with a thick upper lip. He was wearing brown Nike sneakers and a white T-shirt.

In another accident, near Ben-Shemen, 18 people were lightly injured Friday when two commercial vehicles collided. Their passengers were evacuated to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot and Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tsfir.

In Haifa, a worker suffered an electric shock himself after he had climbed an electricity pole Friday. He was taken with moderate injuries to Rambam Hospital. It is not clear why the man had climbed the pole.

Monkey mauls zoo employee

An 18-year-old employee of the Hai-Kef Zoo in Rishon LeZion, who was attacked on Friday morning by a monkey, was still in serious condition last night. Police had to shoot the monkey to death to rescue the teenager.

The monkey escaped from its cage before the zoo opened and rampaged through the park, biting the employee's arms, face and back. The teenager managed to disentangle himself from the monkey and lock himself into a stall in a restroom.

Police and a Magen David Adom crew were called to the scene but were unable to get to the injured employee until after they killed the monkey.

When they arrived at the zoo, MDA medic Oshri Akiva said, "We saw staff members of the municipal emergency hot line. They told us that one of the

employees at the zoo was injured after being attacked by a monkey. We intended to go in, but the hot-line staff and police wouldn't let us do that, because the monkey was still free and running wild.

At that stage, we decided not to go in, so that we wouldn't put our lives in danger," Akiva said. "We waited for a veterinarian, but one didn't arrive. We were forced to go in, as if it were a military operation, under cover of the police, who stood around us with their guns ready. We got to the injured man after the police were forced to shoot the wild monkey and kill him."

Medics said the face of Barak Rothstein was barely recognizable and that his hands had been bitten off. He was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. Police are investigating the incident.

Survey: Most youth disappointed with gov't and Knesset, but proud of IDF

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Sixty-eight percent of youth are disappointed with the government and 66% with the Knesset, while

31% say they are disappointed with the state, according to a poll conducted on behalf of the Union of Local Authorities. The poll, conducted in February

among 423 Jewish youngsters aged 13-18, and which had a margin of error of 4.8% showed the youngsters are proudest of the IDF, with 87% saying they were proud of the army, 11% disappointed and 2% indifferent.

Asked to rate various bodies in terms of whether they were proud of, disappointed with or indifferent to them, only 26% were proud of the government, 68% were disappointed and 6% were indifferent. Only 27% were proud of the Knesset, 66% were disappointed and 7% were indifferent.

A total of 48% said they were proud of the education system, 40% were disappointed, and 12% were indifferent, while 58% were proud of the legal system, 28% were disappointed and 14% were indifferent. A total of 65% said they were proud of the state, 31% were disappointed and 4% were indifferent.

Asked to give the various bodies grades from 1-10, with one showing greatest disappointment and 10 the highest level of pride, the government got a 5.2, the Knesset a 3.9, the educational system a 6.8, the judicial system a 7.6, the state a 7.6 and the army an 8.7.

Shmuel Abuav, the head of the ULAT's education committee, said the poll shows that the army is seen as an apolitical body that has values and goals with which the youngsters identify. The judicial system is also seen as being independent and objective in their eyes.

The youngsters tend to dissociate themselves from the government and Knesset, he said, which are by their nature political bodies.

The youngsters are also turned off by the coalition dealings and deliberations in the government and the Knesset, which often feature displays of intolerance.

The Knesset also highlights disputes within the people, he said, adding it is unfortunate that it is the bodies elected by the people which are the ones that attain the least amount of respect in the youngsters' eyes.

New Czech-German fund to aid survivors

By MARILYN HENRY

PRAGUE - The first Czech survivors of the Nazi occupation have been advised that they will receive aid immediately from a fund created by the recent Czech-German reconciliation pact, according to the Czech Jewish communal leader.

Sixty years after the occupation, these are the first benefits for which Czech survivors are eligible.

Some 1,800 Jews are among the 6,500 Czech Nazi victims who will benefit from the so-called Czech-German Fund for the Future, Jan Munk, president of the Czech Jewish community, said Wednesday night.

The survivors were told on Wednesday that they would receive an annual payment of between 29,000 and 47,000 Czech crowns, or about \$825-\$1,342, depending on the duration of their suffering during the war.

The Czech survivors are also due to receive \$400 each later this year from the Swiss humanitarian fund.

Germany has also agreed in principle to compensation for survivors in Eastern Europe, who previously had not been eligible for reparations available to Jews in Israel and the West for some 45 years.

Under the reconciliation pact, which was signed in January 1997, Germany will contribute DM140 million to the Czech-German fund.

Reached after two years of negotiations, the pact entails mutual apologies from the German and Czech governments.

Prague expressed regret over the mass expulsion of more than 2.5 million Sudeten Germans after the war, while Bonn acknowledged that the Nazi occupation, which began with Hitler's 1938 annexation of the largely German-speaking Sudetenland, set the stage for the post-war expulsions.

PULLBACK

Continued from Page 1

Albright is to hold separate meetings with Arafat and Netanyahu in London on May 4.

Before meeting Ross last night, Netanyahu met with his inner cabinet, comprised of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

In addition to Indyk, policy adviser Aaron Miller, and US Ambassador Edward Walker attended the meeting. Joining Netanyahu were advisers Yitzhak Molcho, Uzi Arad, and cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

Meanwhile, a cabinet meeting scheduled for today to deal with the rising unemployment problem was canceled, as Netanyahu cleared his schedule to meet again with Ross and the inner cabinet.

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Rubin yesterday described the peace process as "increasingly moribund" and said the obstacles to progress remained serious.

"We have no reason at this point to know that this meeting will yield anything but the kind of refusal to make hard decisions that we've seen in the past," Rubin told reporters. Rubin appealed to Netanyahu and Arafat to approach the meetings with Albright with open minds and not miss the opportunity to put the peace process back on track "before it's too late."

A senior State Department official said a failure in London would not necessarily mean the end of the road, and that a judgment "will depend on where we think we are."

Before Ross's arrival, officials in Jerusalem said they expected he and Indyk would seek the limit of Netanyahu's willingness to compromise on a pullback plan.

Defining this as the "principle of reciprocity," a senior Israeli government aide expressed the hope that Ross and Indyk will obtain convincing evidence that the PA can and will prevent incitement to violence, confiscate unauthorized weapons, reduce the number of armed men and women in its police force to the agreed-upon level, and expunge all the anti-Israel clauses from the PNC's Covenant.

Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib add:

PA officials indicated yesterday that Israel has moved beyond its original proposal of an IDF handover of 9% of the West Bank to full PA control and are within 1-2 percentage points of the US plan.

But they said there is still a dispute regarding which areas will be evacuated by Israel and whether this will be the last withdrawal before the completion of final-status talks.

PA officials said they are concerned that Israel will succeed in both whittling down the US proposal for an IDF handover as well as refusing to guarantee a third redeployment within the next year. "The important thing is that there is a third stage and links between the Palestinian lands," said Faisal Husseini, the PA minister responsible for Jerusalem.

"A summit between Arafat and Netanyahu must achieve an agreement. But the idea is not to attend a meeting just for the sake of a meeting that will be destructive for the peace process," he said.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

Where to eat in Israel

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO - Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher. Daily. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkranz for reservations. 9 Harkanos. Tel. 02-623 6085.

BIRD OF PARADISE (Old City) - Fresh home made food - Dairy and vegetarian cuisine, mellow atmosphere in the heart of the Jewish Quarter, live music and poetry. Kosher. 56 Chabad St. (above the Cardo) Tel. 02-626 4723.

DARNA - Authentic Moroccan Restaurant, KOSHER. Our home is your home. Business lunch, salads, couscous, dessert, traditional mint tea. Only NIS 69, with this ad. Open 12-3 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Harkanos St. Tel. 02-624 5406.

EUCALYPTUS - The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meal, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Evening entertainment. Rave reviews. Kosher. 7 Harkanos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

KOHINOOR Kosher Indian Restaurant - Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 49 (children NIS 25) Open 12-4 p.m., 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crowne Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel./Fax. 02-653 6667.

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT - Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food. Kosher. Open for lunch & dinner till 11 p.m.; Sun.-Thurs., Fri. till 3 p.m. 16 King George St. (next to Caravel). Tel. 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER - Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. Family dining. Open during Pessah. Kosher Jerusalem Rabbinat. 27 Erez Relam, German Colony. Tel. 02-566 6603.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM - Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting - spectacular view - private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel. 02-625 1042.

RIENZI - Candlelight dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and homemade pasta. Kosher. Limehadrin-Dairy. Open Hol HaMoed Pessah. Open Saturday night. 10 King David St. (Opp New Hilton Hotel). Tel. 02-622 2312.

A Jerusalem landmark - RIMON RESTAURANT Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. CAFE RIMON Dairy and Fish. Superb pastry. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glatt Kosher Limehadrin. 4 Luriz St. (off Midrachov). Tel. 02-624 3712.

SHEINERS - Kreplach Soup to Jerusalem Mixed Grill. Great food at reasonable prices, served in a cozy modern setting. Luncheon specials. Open noon-11 p.m. Glatt Kosher-Limehadrin. Kanfei Neshanim 24, Givat Shaul. Tel. 02-651-1446.

THE WILD BULL SHOR HA BAR STEAK HOUSE - Finest quality meats and generous portions. "Probably the best steaks and hamburgers in town." OPEN FOR PESSACH / Kosher. For reservations call 02-6244395. 3 Ya'abetz St., Jerusalem (behind the Bell Center).

THE 7TH PLACE - Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. Kosher. 37 Hill St. (Bell Agra - the journalists center). Tel. 02-625 4495.

NEGEV

DUSHARA NABATEAN RESTAURANT - Pastoral atmosphere, in heart of Marmshit antiquities site of the Nabatean period. Food, decor in the spirit of the period. Open Mon-Sat, closed Fri eves and holiday eves. Reservations required. Tel. 07-655-5596, 655-5743.

ROSH PINA

B'BAIT SHEI RAFA - In the heart of old Rosh Pina, find an intimate and special restaurant serving casseroles, steak and vegetarian food. Gourmet cooking and reasonable prices. Tel: 06-636192.

TEL AVIV

Ramat-Aviv Hotel, 151 Namir Rd. Garden rooms (tourist class). 12 halls for seminars, weddings, Bar-mitzvas, Births. Visit our "LA-FONTANA" Italian kosher restaurant. Free parking. For reservations: Tel. 03-699-0777, Fax. 03-699-0997.

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Duma finally confirms Kiriyenko as Russian PM

By GARETH JONES

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's new Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, buoyed by pledges of support from home and abroad, began the task of forming his new cabinet on yesterday after winning reluctant parliamentary approval.

But key political figures, their eyes clearly focused on Russia's next presidential election due in mid-2000, said they would be watching Kiriyenko's progress in office very closely.

"I have quite a heavy workload this weekend," Kiriyenko, 35, said after the State Duma lower house of parliament approved his candidacy as prime minister on Friday by a vote of 251 to 25.

He said he would present his basic cabinet line-up to President Boris Yeltsin for approval on Tuesday.

The Duma caved in to intense Kremlin pressure to back Kiriyenko only after a month of political turmoil sparked by Yeltsin's shock decision to sack veteran prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for failing to push reforms more energetically.

Under Russia's constitution, Kiriyenko - a former banker with only a year of government experience - is now No. 2 to Yeltsin and would temporarily take charge of the vast, nuclear-armed nation if the president died or was incapacitated.

Yesterday's newspapers generally depicted Friday's vote as a moral defeat for the opposition-dominated Duma. By backing Kiriyenko in the third and final vote, deputies averted an early parliamentary election - and the risk of losing their perks.

"Deputies saved the Motherland - and also their flats, cars..." said the *Moskovsky Komsomol* daily in an ironic reference to the benefits that come with a lawmaker's job.

"The *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* daily was equally scathing.

"The State Duma... saved itself from dissolution but will never be able to restore its reputation," it said.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto added his voice to a chorus of foreign leaders including US President Bill Clinton and France's Jacques Chirac congratulating Kiriyenko.

But there were signs that attention within Russia was already shifting away from Kiriyenko towards the political battle that really matters - the next presidential election.

"I am ready for the presidency and regard the post not as sitting on a throne but as very tough work," Kiriyenko's predecessor, Chernomyrdin, told a congress of his centrist Our Home is Russia party in Moscow yesterday.

The stolid Chernomyrdin, a 60-year-old former gas industry chief, served as prime minister for more than five years until Yeltsin suddenly dropped him on March 23. Another would-be presidential candidate, reserve general Alexander Lebed, was hoping this weekend to be elected governor of Russia's vast, resource-rich Krasnoyarsk region.

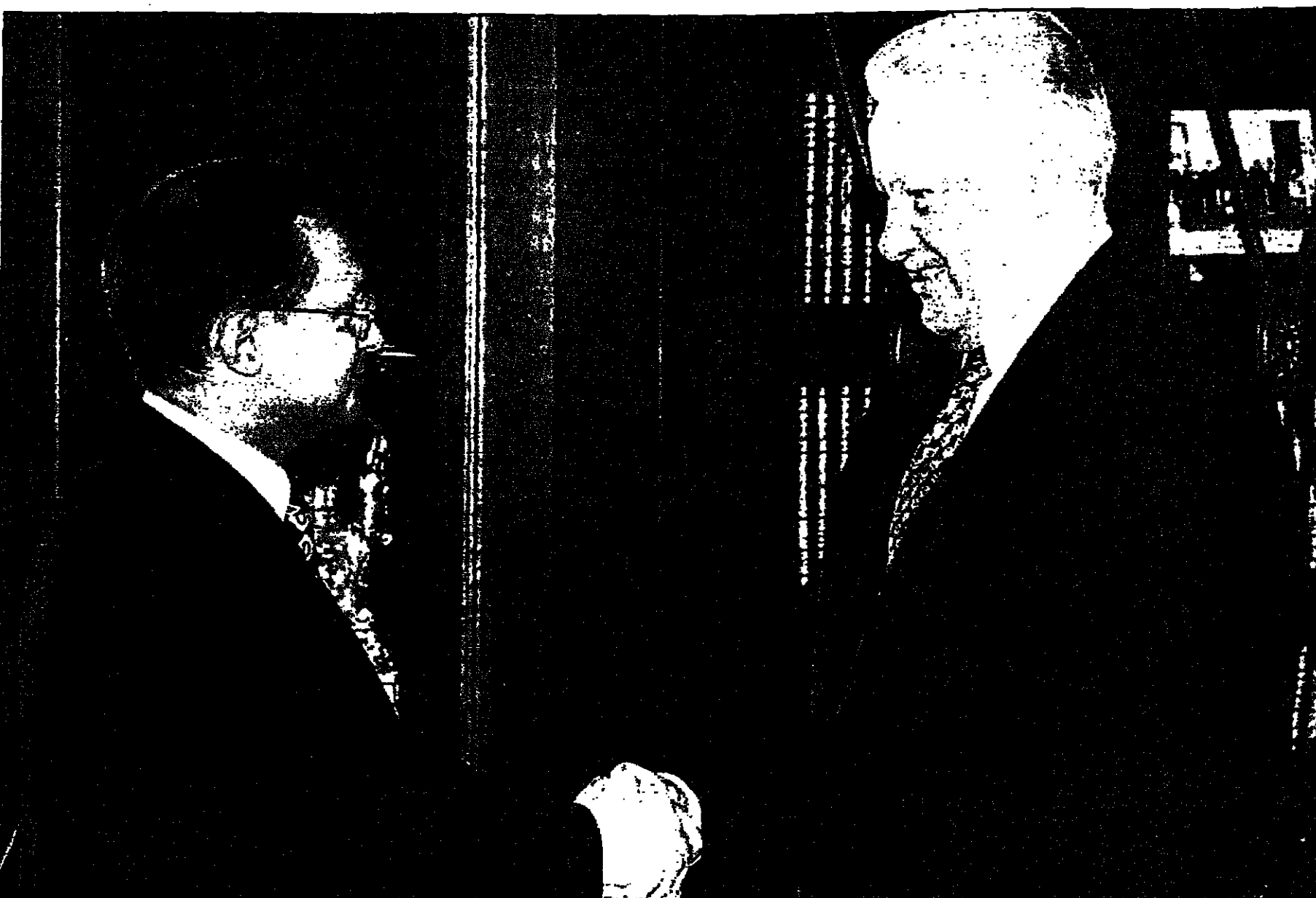
The gruff-voiced, charismatic general wants to use Krasnoyarsk as a springboard for the presidency in 2000.

But if he loses today's poll, Lebed, who came a strong third in the 1996 presidential race and briefly joined Yeltsin's Kremlin team, has said he will be finished politically.

The tough-speaking, influential Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, is also widely regarded as a possible contender for Russia's presidency.

Yesterday, Luzhkov welcomed the Duma's approval of Kiriyenko but made clear he would be scrutinizing his policies and urged the young technocrat to avoid the ultra-liberal policies of former acting prime minister Yegor Gaidar.

"If the new premier does not follow the radical liberal reforms of



Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulates Sergei Kiriyenko after he was confirmed by the Duma as prime minister on Friday.

(AP)

Gaidar...but aims at supporting domestic producers, we shall support him," Luzhkov said in televised comments.

Gaidar launched Russia's market reforms by freeing prices in early 1992 and is hated by the communists and nationalists.

Despite Luzhkov's warning, Kiriyenko is expected to assemble a liberal economic team including acting First Deputy Prime Minister

Boris Nemtsov and acting Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov in a bid to accelerate reforms. Chernomyrdin yesterday reiterated

his party's support for Kiriyenko but said it would not hesitate to criticize the new cabinet if it made mistakes.

N. Irish Catholic man found murdered

BELFAST (Reuters) - A young Roman Catholic man was found murdered in Northern Ireland early yesterday, raising fears that he may have been the latest victim of sectarian violence persisting despite a peace accord this month.

Northern Ireland police said the body of a man in his early 20s was discovered with head wounds near a railway station in the village of Crumlin north of Belfast.

It was found only a day after two key Protestant guerrilla groups announced their support for the April 10 peace deal reached by eight main Protestant and Catholic political parties and the British and Irish governments.

The Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters urged people on Friday to endorse the agreement in what was seen as a further boost for the prospects of a "yes" vote in a referendum on May 22.

Friends of the young Catholic told journalists he left a village bar on Friday night to walk home alone. A taxi-driver was reported to have found him on a road close to the railway station.

On Tuesday, Adrian Lamph, a 29-year-old Catholic, was shot dead by a suspected pro-British loyalist guerrilla in the town of Portadown, 40 km. south of Belfast.

It was the 19th murder since late December by rival pro-British Protestant and pro-Irish Catholic dissident groups who oppose efforts to end the protracted communal conflict over the future of British rule in Northern Ireland.

In a statement, the outlawed UDA and UFF said that a 30-year campaign by their Irish Republican (IRA) enemies had failed in its objective of ending Britain's rule over the province.

The UDA and UFF, which are Protestant forces with some 170 members imprisoned for crimes committed in a bloody struggle to bolster London's rule, said they were satisfied the accord was not a "stepping stone" to the IRA goal of an all-Ireland state.

The Ulster Democratic Party, a political ally of both the loyalist militias, was one of eight Protestant and Roman Catholic groups which thrashed out a plan on April 10 aimed at ending conflict that has

cost more than 3,200 lives.

Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, which took part in the protracted multi-party negotiations, has yet to ratify the agreement.

But political analysts expect it to back the deal, which proposes a range of new political structures to ease communal divisions, at a special congress in Dublin on May 10.

Voters in the Irish Republic also will give their verdict on the accord in a plebiscite on May 22, and are widely expected to give it overwhelming support.

The UDA and UFF were part of a now defunct loyalist guerrilla controlling body, the Combined Loyalist Military Command, which proclaimed an end to hostilities in October 1994, six weeks after the first of two IRA truces.

Loyalist guerrillas launched a wave of killings among the province's Catholic minority to cow nationalist aspirations for the creation of a "United Ireland."

"While uncomfortable with some aspects of the agreement, we nonetheless feel that we can commend it as an overall package to the people of Northern Ireland for endorsement at referendum on May 22," the UDA-UFF statement said. "We view the agreement as an instrument which may further the search for an eventual resolution of the conflict."

"Thirty years of violence by the IRA have failed to drive Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom (Britain) or break the will of the (Protestant) unionist people. Their attempt to negotiate us into a United Ireland has similarly failed," the statement said.

British minister Mo Mowlam said "young people have a chance to vote for a more peaceful future."

She was speaking in Belfast on Friday, as hundreds of mourners turned out in the town of Portadown for the Lamph's funeral.

Gerry Adams, leader of the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army and a pivotal figure in the peace process, announced he will have a further round of talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair in London tomorrow.

He told reporters he will also meet Jim Steinberg, US deputy national security adviser, who is to visit Belfast today.

Economy to be Kiriyenko's top challenge

MOSCOW (AP) - The winner of a tough confirmation fight with parliament, Russia's new Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko must now assemble a team of reformers that can solve the economic woes that did in his predecessors.

Only a year ago, President Boris Yeltsin brought in a group of "young reformers" to clean up Russia's economic mess, but he dismissed the entire cabinet last month, claiming they had failed to produce tangible results.

Kiriyenko made no public appearances yesterday, and Yeltsin has told him he should have his list of ministers ready for the president's review by Tuesday.

"Your objective is to bring about economic growth," Yeltsin told Kiriyenko after parliament confirmed him Friday. "It was precisely such an understanding the previous government lacked."

Some key figures from the old cabinet are expected to remain in place, and much of the attention will be focused on the economic

portfolios. Kiriyenko has not detailed his economic policies so far, but he's a proponent of free-market policies and served as a private banker and an oil company executive before joining the government just last May.

He will be facing a hostile parliament, controlled by the Communist Party and other opposition groups, as he tries to win approval for several key economic policies that have been long stalled.

Yeltsin wants a new tax code to streamline Russia's current complicated and punitive tax system. He also wants land reform that will make it easier to buy and sell property. And the government wants to privatize a number of large state-run industries.

But the Communists have largely resisted these policies for years, and Kiriyenko can expect the same resistance faced by his predecessor, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

In addition, government revenues will be lower than expected this year because of sagging

ANALYSIS

By GREG MYRE

world oil prices. The government gets around a quarter of its income from the oil industry, and Kiriyenko has already announced plans to cut spending. That's irritated the Communists, who want increased government spending to help hard-pressed citizens and struggling state industries.

Yeltsin has a history of hiring and firing his ministers with regularity and Kiriyenko's team will need to produce results quickly, many analysts believe.

"Yeltsin will stick with them for a while, but when a policy runs into trouble, he is happy to sacrifice his ministers and blame everything on them," the *Moscow Times*, an English-language daily, said in an editorial yesterday.

"And perhaps worst of all, Yeltsin often simply loses interest in the details of reforms that

his ministers have initiated," it added.

Kiriyenko, 35, was confirmed as prime minister Friday after a month-long contest of wills between parliament and the president.

Lawmakers had rejected Kiriyenko twice before, saying he was too untested to be second-in-command of the country. But many Duma members changed their vote on Friday, because a third "no" vote would have led to the dissolution of parliament.

The vote brought the country's latest political crisis to a close, but it will not end the polarization between Yeltsin and the opposition.

Meanwhile, Chernomyrdin pledged to back the new government.

"We will support everything reasonable coming from the authorities," Chernomyrdin said in the opening address to the fifth congress of his political movement, Our Home Is Russia.

The party is the third largest in parliament. Chernomyrdin also asked the party to support him in his bid to replace Yeltsin in the next presidential elections, scheduled for 2000.

Yeltsin has indicated he does not plan to run again when his second term ends, and the race to succeed him is already in its early stages.

Alexander Lebed faces crucial governorship election today

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

KRASNOYARSK, Russia (Reuters) - Russian reserve general Alexander Lebed rested after five weeks on the campaign trail yesterday, the eve of an election in Siberia which could make or break his presidential ambitions.

Lebed slipped out of view to take the day off before today's election for the governor of Krasnoyarsk, a vast resource-rich and industrially powerful region in the heart of Russia.

Victory for the 48-year-old former paratrooper commander, who was third in the 1996 presidential election, would provide him with a platform for another shot at the presidency in 2000.

Defeat, he says, would be the end of the road.

"We realize that not just the governorship is at stake, but also the presidential election in 2000 and

Russia's future political balance," said Igor Lavrikov, a Lebed campaign aide.

"Either he wins and shows his popularity or he loses and takes a great fall," he added.

Lebed is far from certain of winning. Opinion polls put him neck and neck with the current, Kremlin-backed governor, Valery Zubov, although neither is likely to get the more than 50 percent of the vote required for outright victory.

Lebed has set his sights on winning a place in a straight run-off against Zubov in two or three weeks time.

"Then we will have to fight to win the votes of all candidates eliminated after the first round. I think we can do it," Lavrikov said.

Lebed's decision to politically parachute in has shaken up sleepy regional capital Krasnoyarsk, a dull, faceless city surrounded by factories.

"Elections here usually go off quietly, but this time everyone is extremely excited because of Lebed," said election commission chief Georgy Kostygin.

Zubov has the advantage of being a well-known figure in Krasnoyarsk, a region covering one seventh of all Russia and spanning the country from north to south.

He has been governor since 1993 and, in a clear smack on newcomer Lebed, his campaign posters declare: "We alone for ourselves."

Some voters fear Lebed wants to use Krasnoyarsk just as a springboard for his political ambitions and will not work to pull the region out of economic crisis.

"He will go away to Moscow to run for the presidency in a year. Then everything here will fall apart," said a middle-aged woman in an argument in a Krasnoyarsk school.

Her older male friend replied: "Rubbish, he's a good soldier."

Student kills teacher at US school dance

EDINBORO, Pennsylvania (AP) - A student shot and killed a teacher chaperoning an eighth-grade graduation dance and wounded three others before the banquet hall owner captured him outside, authorities said.

Andrew Wurst, a 14-year-old student at Parker Middle School, was charged as an adult yesterday morning with criminal homicide, three counts each of aggravated assault and reckless endangerment, along with gun and drug charges.

About 240 students attended the dance. Sobbing girls in satin dresses and terrified boys in neckties huddled together outside the hall after the shooting.

Some hid in a closet when the shooting broke out.

Science teacher John Gillette, 48, was killed Friday night with a gunshot to the head. The dance was being held at Nick's Place,

about 160 kilometers north of Pittsburgh.

State police said the boy was carrying a .25-caliber handgun and a small amount of marijuana.

Gillette was shot on a patio in the front of the hall, and then the shooter walked inside and fired several shots before leaving through a rear exit, state police spokesman Mark Zaleski said.

Hall owner James Strand, armed with a shotgun, captured the boy

in a field behind the building, Zaleski said.

The student had mentioned that he was going to make the dance "memorable," an unidentified student told the *Morning News* of Erie.

Student Shane Rock said he saw the boy with the gun shoot another student.

The shooting occurred just as the dance was breaking up about 10 p.m.

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The public is invited

Following pedophile's failed escape:

Most Belgians want government to quit

By NICK ANTONOVICS

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A poll published yesterday showed that over half of Belgians surveyed wanted Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene to resign after the brief escape by convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux.

In a survey of 1,266 people, the Belgian newspaper *La Dernière Heure* found that 55 percent wanted Dehaene to follow his justice and home affairs ministers and quit after the scandal over the embarrassing getaway by Belgium's Public Enemy No. 1.

A smaller poll by Dutch market research group NIPO found only 35 percent wanted the government to resign, although 82 percent said they had little or no confidence in Belgian politics as a whole. NIPO sampled 500 people.

Both polls showed that opposition to the government was greatest in the French-speaking southern half of Belgium, where most

of Dutroux's crimes are alleged to have been committed, although victims came from both sides of the country's French-Dutch linguistic divide.

But political analysts believe that Dehaene's coalition of Christian democrat and socialist parties will hold firm as it prepares to vote down on Tuesday opposition demands for it to go.

The next general elections are scheduled for June 1999.

Dutroux enjoyed three hours on the run last Thursday after escaping police custody during a court visit in Neufchateau in southern Belgium.

The former electrician is being held in connection with the abduction, rape and murder of four young girls whose bodies were found in August 1996.

He is also alleged to have left two eight-year-olds to starve to death in makeshift dungeons beneath one of several houses he owned. He is due to go on trial

later this year.

Dutroux was jailed for 13 years in 1992 for rape and child abuse, but was released 10 years early for good behavior, against the advice of the then public prosecutor.

Interior Minister Johan Vande Lanotte and Justice Minister Stefaan De Clerk resigned immediately, but Dehaene - a veteran of government crises - has expertly weathered the storm and resisted pressure for more heads to roll.

Two seasoned politicians, Louis Tobback and Tony Van Parys, were sworn in on Friday in place of Vande Lanotte and De Clerk as public appetite for more political executions appeared to wane rapidly.

The "White Committee," a popular movement born from nationwide anger and revulsion at the incompetent handling of the pedophilia scandal, called a demonstration, but only 150 people turned up to ask for police chief Willy De Ridder to quit.



A TV photo of convicted paedophile Marc Dutroux, centre, on the rear seat of a police car as he leaves the gendarmerie at Neufchateau, Belgium, after being recaptured on Thursday. (AP)

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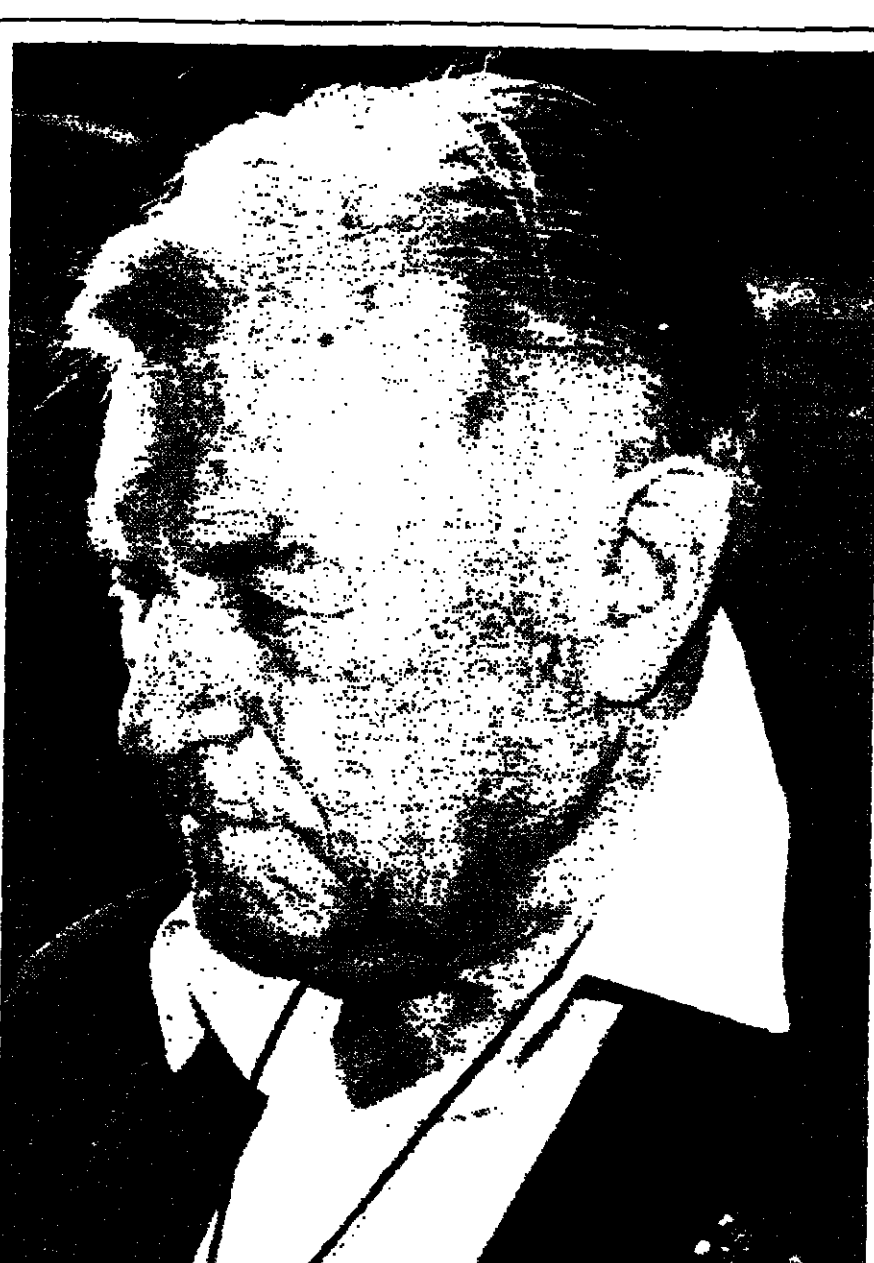
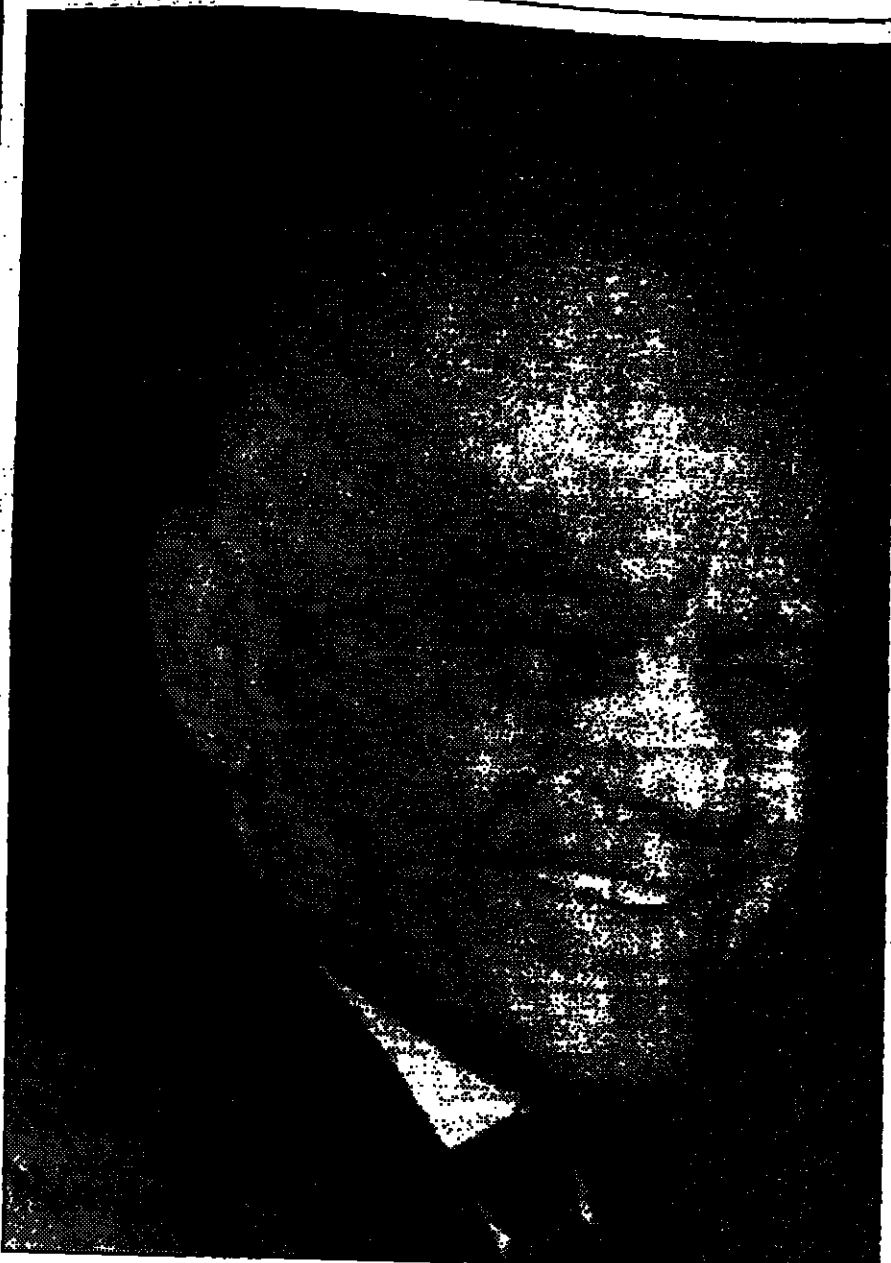
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Hard talk on the jubilee

In recognition of our jubilee, BBC World's *Hard Talk* devotes this week to interviews with leading figures in Israel and the region. Host Tim Sebastian's guests include former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kolek (above right, today at 6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.); Faisal Husseini (the Palestinian Authority's official representative for Jerusalem, tomorrow at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.); former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (above left, Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.); and former foreign minister Abba Eban (Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.)

The De'Ath of John Hurt

By DEBORAH HORNBLOW

When John Hurt saw an Internet printout of his filmography, "It completely amazed me," he says. At 58, Hurt estimates that he has "been connected to 70 or 80 films and appeared in 40 to 50 in a leading or supporting role."

A two-time Oscar nominee (for his gentle drug-addicted inmate in *Midnight Express* and the lead in David Lynch's *The Elephant Man*), Hurt has earned an equal measure of impressive credits in theater (most recently, he did a year-long stint in *A Month in the Country* opposite Helen Mirren in London's West End) and on television (notably a lead role in the miniseries *I, Claudius* and the part of Quentin Crisp in Masterpiece Theater's *The Naked Civil Servant*).

If Hurt's resume suggests the work of an inveterate — and highly intelligent — risk-taker, his latest film, *Love and Death on Long Island*, marks a crowning achievement.

Several critics have called Hurt's performance as Giles De'Ath one of the greatest roles of his career. After some critical self-examination, Hurt agrees.

With the role of De'Ath, he says, "I had the opportunity to put in everything I had learned. The role is so narrow. Giles doesn't even raise his voice. He has none of that dramatic equipment that an actor looks forward to using. It is a role based entirely on thought and action, and it meant getting that thought down correctly so that



John Hurt as Giles De'Ath in 'Love and Death on Long Island.'

everything was there to be demonstrated," he says. "I am, therefore," he hesitates, "proud of it."

The role of Giles poses extreme challenges. As scripted by director Richard Kwietniowski from the novel by Gilbert Adair, Giles De'Ath is a fussy middle-aged British writer whose life is upended one day when, on his trip to the cinema, he falls madly and helplessly in love with the screen vision of a young American movie actor, played by Jason Priestley.

Hurt manages to make this momentous transformation entirely convincing. In the pivotal cinema scene, which was done in one take with "no special rehearsal," Hurt creates the reality of an obsessive love out of what amounts to very thin air. "It was one take. One take that

happened to go right," he says. Hurt modestly attributes the fine quality of *Love and Death on Long Island* to Kwietniowski, who also wrote the screenplay, adapting Adair's novel.

HURT is the half-Irish, half-Scott son of a clergyman (a vocation he has "always regarded as the same business, different department," he laughs).

Raised in England, he yearned to be an actor, but his parents encouraged him to get an education before pursuing his chosen career. He will extend the same advice to his sons, 5 and 8, should either of them set off for the footlights.

"I would do everything I could to fan the flames," he says, but "I would advise them as my parents did me."

Divorced ("the way of the world, I'm afraid"), Hurt retreats to Dublin, which is also home to his boys, when his schedule allows.

A nine-year resident of the Emerald Isle, Hurt says he moved there because "I respond to Ireland, and I respond to the countryside."

In regard to the peace negotiations, Hurt says, "The accord? Well, obviously everybody hopes this will be the beginning of something that will be lasting. It's a very, very complicated situation, and I wouldn't want to make any glib remarks about it."

Hurt sounds every inch a diplomat, the career he would have chosen had he not been seduced by the realm of the imagination. (The Hartford Courant)

Taking the organ out of church

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Marie-Claire Alain has been playing the organ all over the world for many decades. Her major aim has always been "to promote the organ as a musical instrument, not just in church, to make the organ live and not just as background music."

These days there are excellent organs the world over, not just in churches but also in concert halls, especially in Japan, Germany and the Netherlands. Alain admits that she is more comfortable playing an organ in church. "I do like the concert hall, although it's a totally different approach, and the acoustics are drier."

The organist is probably the only instrumentalist who does not see the audience either in the concert hall or church. In church organists are usually hidden in the upper galleries, while in the concert hall their backs usually face the audience.

"You don't need to actually look at the audience in order to feel them. You must establish a general feeling about the music you play," says Alain, who laments the fact that with so much written for the organ "since the 15th century and until our age, it has become impossible to master it all and organists need to specialize."

Alain specializes in 18th-19th century music and has performed several premieres of contemporary works, but "Basically I have no time to learn contemporary works, so I let others do it."

Alain is known, above all, for her interpretation of Bach and of French music — the program she will play at her sole Israel Festival recital at the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem on June 3 (preludes, fugues and chorales by Bach, works by Couperin, her father Albert Alain and her late brother Jehan Alain).

Although she plays a lot of Bach's music, she says "there's always something new to discover in his music, he is so rich."

She has very strict ideas about the so called authentic early music trends and performance practice. She says musicians must respect the fact that Bach composed on a certain kind of instrument that produced a particular sound. "I don't listen to musicians who arrange Bach for other instruments like the marimba for example. This music is at its best when played on the harpsichord or the organ."

"Bach's music is essential, refreshing and it quiets you down. Whenever I don't feel well I play a Bach fugue and then I feel much better, it's really the best remedy around."

As every organ is different, Alain has to practice several hours before each recital. "You have to create a new sound for each piece of music and each organ; you never play any given work the same way twice."

With more than 200 discs and records to her credit, the first recorded in the 1950s, Alain says that recordings are essential to this repertoire because "it means one does not have just to go to church to hear the organ, one can also listen to it at home."

And although she obviously prefers live concerts she enjoys recordings as an opportunity to achieve perfection, and knows that "I will be listened to by many people."

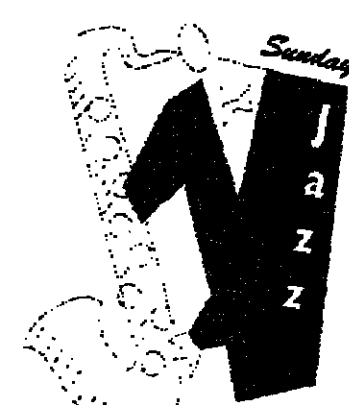
Alain says she is "a very normal human being" who loves her garden, her children and her grandchildren. And although she followed in her father's footsteps at the organ, her own children did not follow her, which, she says, doesn't bother her. "I wanted it and yet father never forced me. I always knew that I would do what I loved, it just happened that I loved the organ."

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

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#5 8 9	CELINE DION	LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE
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#7 5 6	V/A	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#8 13 4	RITA	TACHANOT BAZMAN
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#15 7 7	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

A trio of divas



By Calev Ben-David

Is there really anything left to say about Ella Fitzgerald? Probably not. But the release of Verve's *Ultimate Ella Fitzgerald* as part of its CD series featuring the best work of leading jazz vocalists as selected by an equally celebrated peer, does offer the opportunity to take the measure of this giant of a diva.

Reviewed in this space last month was the disc in the same Verve series featuring the best songs of Billie Holiday, the only other jazz singer usually mentioned in the same breath as the divine Ella. Holiday is even

The real "ultimate Ella" is better found in still available CDs like her *George Gershwin*, *Cole Porter* and *Duke Ellington* Songbooks.

ONE singer who perhaps does bear comparison with Ella — and has suffered for it — is the wonderful Sarah Vaughan. Dec Dec Bridgewater, who chose the songs for the *Ultimate Sarah Vaughan* and contributes some unusually thoughtful liner notes, writes: "Ella's voice isn't nearly as full as Sarah's, she doesn't have that huge vibrato or lushness... And yet, when you say Ella Fitzgerald, everybody knows that name — but not everybody has heard of Sarah Vaughan."

Vaughan does indeed have, as Bridgewater notes, a voice that is "soft, very rich, very warm," and yet "almost operatic" in strength. She was positively brilliant in ballads, as the many on this disc — "Misty," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Summertime," etc. — attest. But she could also scat with the best of them, as she does here on "Shulie a Bop" and "No One Blues."

So why isn't Vaughan given her due by some? Bridgewater herself provides an answer without realizing it. "She's really very subtle," Bridgewater writes, "and slick, slick, slick!"

Although meant as a compliment, that line speaks to a certain lack of individuality in Vaughan's honey-sweet voice, a touch too much "lushness" in place of real feeling in her delivery.

ANOTHER great singer whose career has been unfairly overshadowed by that of a contemporary is Dinah Washington, whose life and work bear more than a passing resemblance to that of Billie Holiday. Both were blues singers who were able to cross-over and conquer pop-time territory; both had a truly unique, bordering on the quirky, vocal style (Washington's phrasing often included more odd pauses than a Pinter play); and both had stormy personal lives that ended in drug-induced premature death, with Washington passing away in 1963 at the age of 39.

Washington did put out some inferior records, especially in the last years of her life, so a thoughtful collection of her songs like *Ultimate Dinah Washington*, selected by Abbey Lincoln, is always welcome.

I would have preferred the inclusion of more of her rhythm-and-blues and gospel-inflected work of the 1940s, than the heavy emphasis on orchestra-accompanied ballads as selected by Lincoln. And although the collection rightly starts with Washington's signature tune, "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," inexplicably missing is her equally indelible version of "I'll Take Manhattan."

Still, kudos for including Washington's mournful rendition of the Hank Williams country classic "Cold, Cold Heart" (What a live duet that would have been!), her version of the Bessie Smith classic "Back Water Blues," and the powerful "This Bitter Earth."

Washington also happens to be the personal favorite of mine among these three great jazz divas, mainly because, like Holiday, one could hear a world of hurt and romantic pain in her voice. As Lincoln writes here: "She was a mischievous queen, she was. And it's all in her music."

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NOTICE TO TRAVELERS

The "Arava" and "Jordan River" crossing posts on the Jordan frontier will be closed on Monday, April 27, because of a Moslem holiday.

The "Allenby" crossing post will be open, as usual.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

A talent for all seasons

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

Yehonatan Geffen is so much a part of the Israeli collective unconscious that it's easy to forget just how great his talent is.

No matter what he writes, whether it's a newspaper column, books for adults or children, comedy routines for himself or lyrics for others, Geffen brings to the work a tremendous love for language and a sharp intelligence.

Hashirim nisharim (The Songs Remain) is a compilation of some of the best of the best of Geffen's lyrics, as set to music and performed by some of our brightest

talents. Geffen himself can't sing his way out of a paper bag and he knows it, so when he does choose to vocalize, as on this album's last track, he speaks rather than sings.

Happily, his style is pleasant and friendly — a whole album of recital might be a bit much, but one song is nice.

What Geffen's songs represent to

HASHIRIM NISHARIM
(The Songs Remain)
Yehonatan Geffen
and various artists
Phonokol
*** 1/2

no small extent is the real Israel — not the utopia envisioned by our forefathers nor the heroic nation invoked for the sake of the jubilee, but the actual country, filled as it is with fallible human beings.

"They say it was happy here before I was born," Arik Einstein sings in "Yehol lehiyot shezch nigmor" ("Maybe It's Over"), originally recorded 25 years ago. "Here, where you see the grass/there used to be only mos-

quitoes and swamps/they say there used to be a wonderful dream here/but when I came, I didn't find anything."

At the same time, Geffen doesn't doubt where he belongs: "A big city with no soldiers and I can't sleep/bells ring on Sunday morning/a cold moon on towers in a real winter/I feel just great, but it's not my home." Oshik Levy sings in "Yehonatan, sa habaita" ("Yehonatan, Go Home").

For all his national concerns, though, most of these songs telegraph flashes of human experience which are shared universally — some sad, others sweetly funny.

I suspect that if Geffen has a life philosophy, it's probably best summed up in "Lokeah z'man" ("Taking My Time"), performed by Yitzhak Klepter: "There are those who treat life like an organized tour/but I'm not going/I'm taking my time."

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: Who wrote both the words and music to "Tilat haderech," the song Geffen recites on his album?
A: His son, Aviv Geffen.

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Victory for Russian reform

The Russian Duma's parliamentarians have done nothing to counter cynicism about politicians and their motives. After twice rejecting President Boris Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister and wasting nearly a month of the country's time, the delegates finally caved in and approved Sergei Kiriyenko's appointment.

Initially, the Duma voted Kiriyenko down with huge majorities as delegates made speeches about his inexperience and his unsuitability for the job. The reasons for rejecting him were perfectly valid if they were the honestly held opinions of the legislators.

But after all that, Friday's huge vote of 251 to 25 in a secret ballot to confirm Kiriyenko's appointment glaringly exposed the hypocrisy and self-serving of the Duma.

The issue was never really Kiriyenko's suitability, or lack of it. It was first an exercise in irritating Yeltsin, and in the final analysis, it was an exercise in deputies keeping their soft jobs and parliamentary perks by rejecting not Kiriyenko, but early dissolution of the Duma and unpredictable parliamentary elections.

Nonetheless, the approval of Kiriyenko is to be welcomed, if only for the sake of Russia's stability.

Whatever the new prime minister's performance in office, he is at least on the correct side of the political spectrum — the reform side. He is the president's choice, he has now been approved by parliament, and he deserves the goodwill of Russians and foreigners while he gets to grips with the country's many problems, especially the economic ones. The least he can ask of the Communist-dominated Duma after his humiliating ordeal is that it will not try to block his reform programs.

The United States has been quick to welcome the new prime minister and surprisingly fulsome in praising him. US President Bill Clinton said he had a high opinion of Kiriyenko, based on the administration's dealings with him as former energy minister.

Much of Russian skepticism about Kiriyenko is because of his age, 35, which obviously suggests serious inexperience in high office in such a huge country. But as Clinton indicated, the new prime minister has not been criticized for the jobs he has held.

Clinton also is hoping the reformer will move to ratify the START-2 arms control treaty, which has been delayed for so long. The hiatus while Yeltsin battled parliament over Kiriyenko's appointment raised worries in the West about control of Russia's nuclear keys. Had Yeltsin become incapacitated during that time, control of the nuclear button presumably would have fallen to Kiriyenko — a young, untested man with no constitutional standing whatsoever.

As Clinton suggested, a final ratification of START-2 would allow the parties to move ahead to START-3. As Russia's nuclear arsenal and the controls over it become older and possibly unstable, formal efforts to make the world a safer place with fewer weapons will become increasingly important.

The State Department also lavished praise on the new prime minister, indicating how seriously the US still views the reform capabilities of a Yeltsin-dominated government. An official said Kiriyenko signals the kind of generational change that is necessary if the world is to able finally to "shed the barnacles" of the Cold War.

"Frankly," said the official, "we have had more progress on energy and investment issues since he has been involved than in all the preceding years since Russia has been independent."

The appointment of Kiriyenko follows Yeltsin's pattern of turning back to reformers when he has no need for the support of more populist conservative nationalists. However, the bruising battle with the Duma also is a reminder that the powerful Communists and their allies still believe their day is coming back.

While everyone wishes him well now, it remains dubious if, in three years' time, anyone will remember the name of Sergei Kiriyenko.

Death in Rwanda

Every time Rwanda is in the news, the subject is death. This weekend it is the executions of those convicted of being involved in the 1994 genocide. The executions have left the democratic world shuffling for an appropriate response, with the European Union and the US muttering unconvincingly about certain "concerns."

Rwanda's government moved swiftly to undercut international criticism by comparing the executions to the Nuremberg process that tried and executed the Nazi war criminals. In a statement to the United Nations in Geneva, Rwanda said the executions are "legally and morally necessary" and they "followed the example of the Nuremberg tribunal, which was charged with judging the Nazis."

It went on to say the judgment "will exorcise the country by the educational aspect it conveys," namely the lesson "that nobody has the right to exterminate other people with impunity and that human life is sacred."

One clear concern that should be voiced out loud is the fact that the executions are being carried out in public. Nothing taints a judicial

process more than a public spectacle suggesting that revenge is a motivation more powerful than justice.

The Western powers have restricted themselves to urging restraint on the Rwandan government. But the bounds of civilized restraint have already been overstepped, and with tens of thousands of Hutu suspects awaiting trial, the Tutsi-dominated government runs a grave risk of turning its "Nuremberg" into a vengeful new massacre.

The most shameful aspect of this Rwandan mess is the lack of moral authority left to the UN because of its abysmal behavior during the massacres. The UN was tipped off months before the killings that a genocide was being planned. The information was not put before the Security Council. When the slaughter began, the UN withdrew its peacekeeping forces from Rwanda.

Once more the UN has demonstrated that when an international authority loses its own moral backbone, its cowardice becomes no less shameful than those it accuses of failing to deliver clean justice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROPAGANDA

Sir, — After watching the *Thuma* episode on Israeli Arabs and reading in the April 3 *Post* about "The making of *Biladi, Biladi*" in which the writer-producer "wanted to present the other side loudly," there is just one question I wish to ask: who are the historians supplying the facts and figures, the background and the wider perspective of this hundred-year old conflict?

The political bias, the personal credo of this or that TV writer or producer couldn't even begin to influence this series if, for example, the eminent American historian's Joan Peters' work *From Time Immemorial* was one of their sources.

That monumental documentary

research study of the origins and development of the Palestinian-Jewish conflict is based on Turkish, British and Arab records, which few of our post-Zionist historians had access to. The picture emerging from this study, augmented by recent accounts of growing Islamist fundamentalism and the links between Saddam Hussein and the Palestinian Authority, presenting a concrete threat of using anthrax as a terror weapon, may sober up some of these TV writer-producers.

It may even bring home to them that their emotional acceptance of the Palestinian version of historical events and their sympathy with the Palestinian "fighters," proves

that they, too, have fallen for the consummate lies of Palestinian propaganda.

PNINA GOLDNER

Kiryat Haim.

COLUMN ONE

Sir, — What a joy it is to read Thomas O'Dwyer's articles and "Column One" in *The Jerusalem Post*.

Always interesting, informative and well-written. On whatever subject he chooses to write, we are treated to journalism at its very best.

Thank you Mr. O'Dwyer.

RUTH GREENWALD

Givatayim.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 26, 1933, *The Palestine Post* protested the Palestine Government's announcement that only 5,000 immigration certificates would be granted to the Jewish Agency for the next six months. Protest meetings were held throughout the country, while the newspaper explained that "absorptive capacity" should be interpreted in the sense that it was the Mandate's duty to facilitate the expansion of

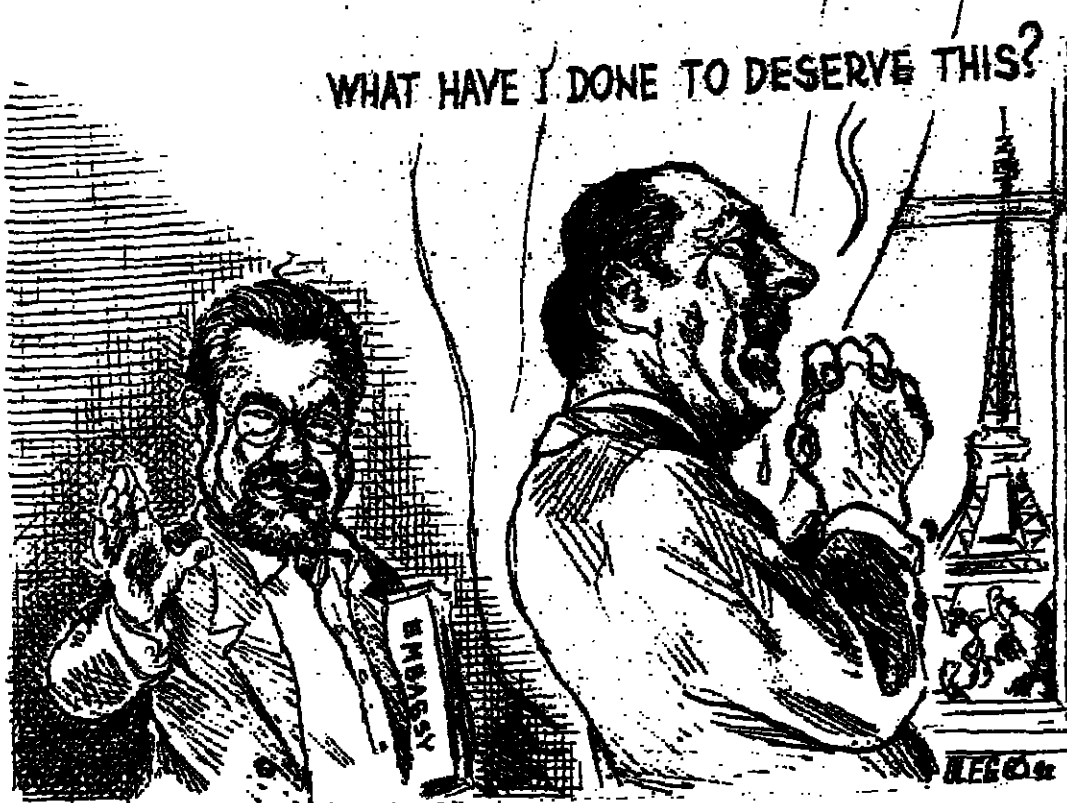
that capacity.

50 years ago: On April 26, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that after a fierce battle during which the Hagana finally succeeded to drive out Arab gangs out from the Sheikh Jarrah Quarter of Jerusalem, the British forces took strong action against the Jewish force, and under the personal orders from the High Commissioner placed the road under military rule. Elsewhere in

Jerusalem armed Arabs tried to break through Hagana positions but were driven off and suffered forty casualties.

25 years ago: On April 26, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the French playwright Eugene Ionesco expressed "great pride at receiving the Jerusalem Prize — the Prize of the City of Peace."

Alexander Zvieli



The divine calculus

DAVID WEINBERG

After a gap of nearly two thousand years, the 50-year-old Third Commonwealth of Israel is now an entrenched fact of contemporary history, backed up by some six million citizens, nuclear arms, a vibrant democracy and an active world Jewry.

It's a good time to take stock. And indeed, hundreds of foreign journalists from around the world are here to do just that.

Unfortunately, the international press reviews of this jubilee anniversary seem to miss the spiritual, meta-historical significance of Israel's achievement.

The New York Times and others have conducted thoroughly researched and expertly documented surveys of contemporary Israel. These features tend to calculate a balance sheet of our successes and failures — in defense, economy, democracy and peace-making — and pose poignant questions about Israel's identity and society in the future.

But while it's valid to apply temporal yardsticks of measurement to Israel at 50, such evaluations miss the deeper challenge: to fathom the processes at work behind the curtain of current affairs; to understand the resurgence of Israel in grand historical terms; to discern the mystic movement — the Divine drama if you will — that is playing out.

It cannot be otherwise. There is nothing global, or even massive, about the State of Israel in political terms. This is a small piece of country. We Israelis are but a tiny fraction of the human family. In the sweep of history, there have been greater battles, bigger construction and irrigation projects, larger population transfers and immigrations and more eminently impressive displays of might.

No, the establishment, survival and advancement of Israel is more than a political or secular event in Jewish, or indeed in global, consciousness. Israel stands as vindication of the spirit; as a validation of the tenaciousness of faith; as proof of humanity's power to overcome.

HISTORY KNOWS no parallel to the prophecies of the Bible, which foretold of exile, of the break-up of a people into a thousand pieces across the world, — yet who were destined not to assimilate, but to return.

This is the saga of a metaphysical union, spanning centuries between a people, their God, and a land, defying all odds. This is the celebration of a nation who, at the moment of ultimate nadir, of devastating Holocaust, rose from the ashes, armed with little more than conviction and a historical consciousness — that promised renewal, to stake claim to their ancestry. This is redemption, Providential consolation.

"In this generation of ideological confusion, of erratic thought, in the press and rush of civilization haunted by doubt, fear and spiritual inadequacy, the still small voice of Israel reborn has a significance overreaching the criterion of material capacity, extending beyond the boundaries of geographical dimension and the jurisdiction of international systems," wrote the late Yaacov Herzog.

"Israel represents a vindication of faith and prayer through the ages; it is a symbol of revival, a message of hope, indeed a lasting evidence of the integrity of the spirit."

"Listen to Chaim Weizman at the 22nd Zionist Congress in 1946: "... [We] stand today six hundred thousand strong, with steady vision and unwavering courage, drawing sustenance, spiritual and material, from a grudging and neglected soil..."

testimony to the irresistible force which drives our people to become free men and women once again on the land of our forefathers."

Or to put it another way, as did Theodore Herzl: "If you will it, it is no dream."

THIS BELIEF in the power of human will, animated by ancient faith, explains much about Israel, even today.

It explains why we sometimes stubbornly refuse to recognize the rational calculations of diplomatic cost and benefit — calculations politely impressed on us by well-meaning allies. It explains why those who consider history only in terms of national politics and international relations underestimate or misjudge us. They fail to understand that Israel is guided by an astral calculus that is not always perceptible, a reckoning that blurs the lines between imagination and reality, between the possible and the feasible.

The other day, I explained it this way to a friend of mine who is a foreign correspondent. It's not just the Jewish people that have returned here, I said. God is returning too, bit by bit. "The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity... and gather thee from all the nations" (Deuteronomy 30:3).

Read not "turn thy captivity" says the Talmud, but rather "return Himself" from captivity. His presence in the Land of Israel, and His protection, grows with every Russian immigrant stepping off the plane.

I wonder whether the journalists and bystanders here to put us, at 50, on the couch, can factor this analysis into their reportage.

And can we Israelis — can remind ourselves of this prophetic perspective long enough to allow for true celebration?

A time to heal

STEPHEN S. ROSENFIELD

confront earlier myths. The fact is that pre-state Zionist militia commanders, the young Yitzhak Rabin among them, drove Palestinians from hundreds of their villages, including Deir Yassin, scene of a notorious massacre.

What Israelis hint as their finest national hour, Palestinians term "the catastrophe."

US President Bill Clinton recently waded into these waters blithely unaware. In a CBS special celebrating the Israeli anniversary, he tossed in a boilerplate tribute to

particularly astonishing, coming at a time when the US is trying to act as an honest broker in the peace process.

FOR ISRAELIS, the 50-year balance sheet includes great pluses: the establishment and defense of the state, provision of refuge for Jews in desperate straits, preservation of democracy, building a modern society and economy and beginning peace with some of the neighbors.

All that is on one side of the ledger. On the other is Israel's failure to do the hard things that should have been done to invite reconciliation with Palestinians.

The Palestinians' balance sheet is starker. They judge it a spooz just that they have asserted and maintained a national identity in the minds of their people and in world consciousness. But there has been a specific failure to exploit the several opportunities (1948, 1978) to work toward self-determination, and a general failure to match the Zionists in applying self-discipline to the pursuit of a deeply felt destiny.

The Israeli-Palestinian transaction is a century old and far from complete. But it is evident what its eventual political bottom line must be: the establishment of a Palestinian state next to the existing Jewish state.

The nations of the world had it right when they voted to partition then-British Palestine in 1947. It was a good idea then, even though, while the Israelis accepted it, the Palestinians turned it down.

Now the two parties have reversed positions, with the Palestinians in favor and the Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu seemingly locked in denial, but the idea remains compelling and sound.

The writer is a Washington Post columnist.

Friendly's testimony

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Andy Rooney was one of the 14 (foreign) speakers at the memorial service for Fred Friendly in New York, and he had a daring thing.

The two men had been friends, we learned, for 53 years. Although (he told us) he had been counseled not to do so, the lights in the huge, crowded theater at Columbia University went off and the screen lit up. It was Fred Friendly speaking, eight years ago, telling us about his living will.

He was big as life: imposing, stentorian, seductive, didactic. He could never see any reason to limit the size of an audience. Accordingly he was now telling that part of the world that he wanted to hear it from his own lips that he absolutely and unequivocally prohibited any doctor from elongating his life by sticking tubes into his body or engaging in any other practice that held out nothing more than hope for biological survival.

Friendly said that his design was to prolong life, not death. These schematics have a hard time up against the real world. Rooney told the assembly that he had visited his old friend in January of this year, and that he had lost "90 percent" of his mind. A series of strokes dating back several years had progressively immobilized this man of dynamic energy, the muse of television as the fledged medium of elevated political thought.

Fred Friendly was the producer of the famous series of documentaries narrated by Edward R. Murrow. He was in due course made head of CBS News, but after two years resigned, in protest against CBS's failure to televise some protracted congressional hearings.

Friendly's resignation in 1967 was a very big news event, and other enterprises reached out to enlist him. He was called to the office of the dean at Columbia University, who told Friendly that he was wanted as a tenured professor of journalism and that all the red tape, the usual business, could in his case be waived.

"All I need from you is a copy of your curriculum vitae," That said Friendly, was his for the asking. "There's only one thing I need to know: What is a curriculum vitae?"

Antonin Scalia's five-minute eulogy (all the speakers were respectful of time limitations) said of Friendly, a producer and teacher so widely recognized, feared and loved for his unstrained conduct, that he was at heart an innocent.

That was so. He could never understand why CBS News declined to spend every penny it had on news and information ventures — simply could not understand it.

ANOTHER SPEAKER described Friendly's annual petition before the Ford Foundation. He was on one occasion preceded by another petitioner who went on and on, sometimes for more than a day or even two, giving birth to the spidery legs of his application.

When it came Friendly's turn to plead for his television documentaries and analyses, he would speak in tempestuous tones about the vital nature of the work in hand and of good and evil. When asked a question, the speaker reported, Friendly would answer with a 10-minute blast, leaving the board of trustees enormously impressed, even if no one had any idea what his answer had been, or if in fact any answer had been given to the question asked.

Leaving the board room after one Friendly experience, trustee Henry Ford remarked, "I don't know what that friggin' guy is all about, but I wish I could get him to sell cars for me."

The most orderly thing about Fred Friendly was his commitment to the reasoning of John Stuart Mill. If all the facts viewable are there and everybody has examined them, then democratic truths will crystallize.

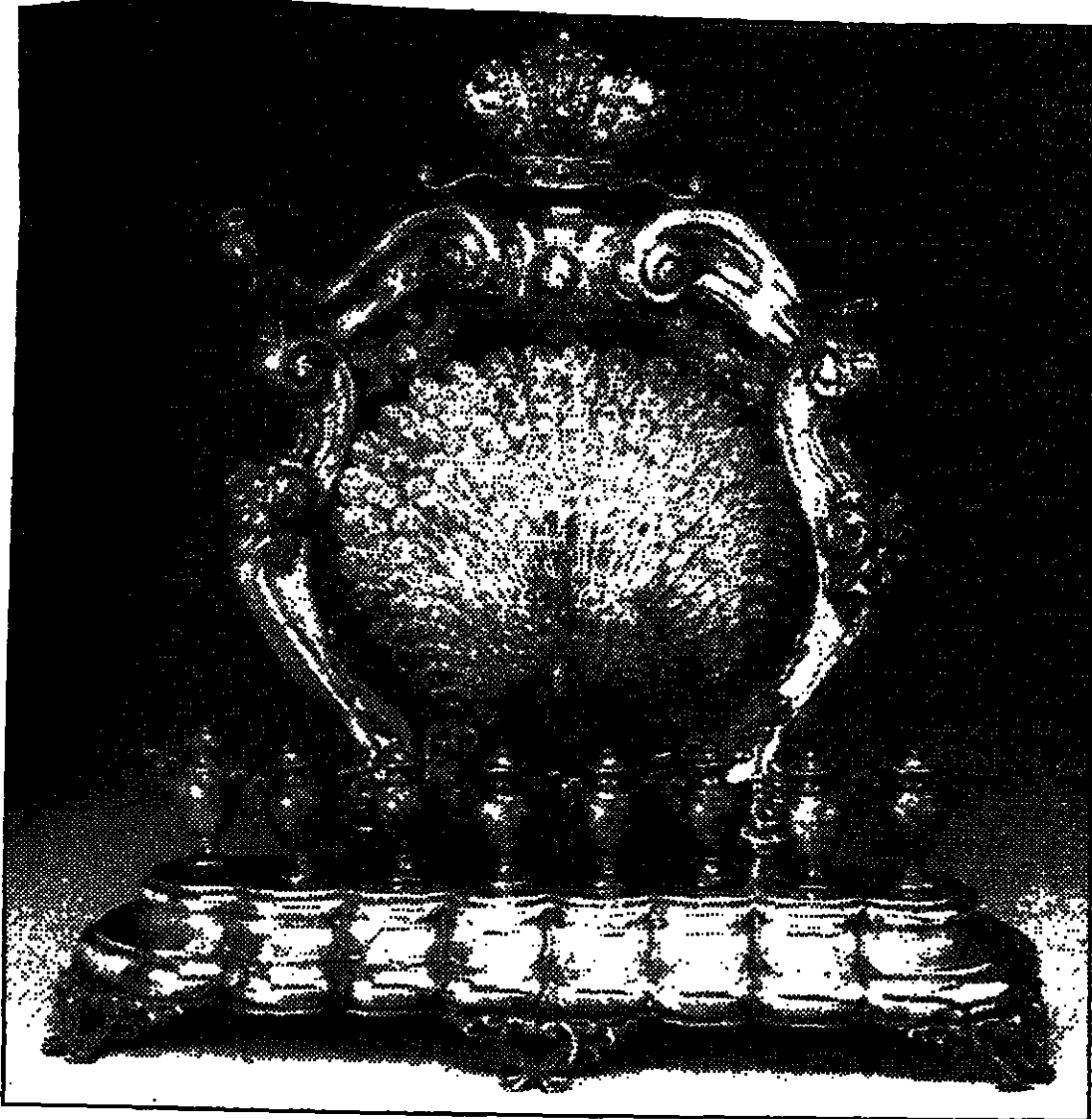
Friendly's appetites for points of view were comprehensive, and to his famous constitutional seminars he summoned not four, or even six people, but 24 or 26, who sat around a circular table responding to a skilled moderator who had spent days and weeks probing such questions as: What are the respective priorities of the press and the government?

The sessions would last for three hours, and sometimes reconvened after lunch, which was usually punctuated by an exhortation from Fred Friendly.

And of course the world doesn't quite work that way, even as living wills so often fail to work as designed. That really was the innocence Scalia had in mind in his remark. Innocence of that special stripe is especially appealing to American liberals, whose intellectual affirmations survive, perhaps transcend, experience. But the freshness of the thinking is always there always appealing.

And when it comes from the lips of a mastodontic advocate, himself so totally himself, so desperately anxious to communicate to the public to alleviate pain, to nourish his mind, to rescue from despair, the temptation is all but irresistible to write out a living will again: Millston hereby.

(Universal Press Syndicate)



Monumental theater-form Hanukkah lamp, Vienna, 1860 (sold for \$44,850 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)

Hits and misses at Tel Aviv sales

AT THE AUCTIONS

Auction results are often in the eye of the beholder and the way the announced statistics are perceived.

Last week, a Christie's Tel Aviv PR handout exulted that over 80% of value was achieved at its spring sale of international and local art, but just 68% of the 100 lots were sold. Nevertheless, total for the sale was a handsome \$1.87m.

This was a slightly better record than at Sotheby's Tel Aviv that week, where only 63 of 127 art lots sold, but at 60.2% of the dollar value, for a total of \$1.75m. At Sotheby's groundbreaking sale of international and Israeli 20th-century studio ceramics, only 95 of the 207 lots sold for some \$118,542, at about 44% of total estimated value. But Sotheby's Judaica sale brought another \$1.8m.

While outstanding items performed well at both Christie's and Sotheby's, many others were sold below their estimates or not at all. Further, the published prices include the buyer's premium; the sellers get 10% less.

Actually, there's nothing new in the fact that indifferent work by lesser names is rarely in demand, particularly when overpriced. Over optimism has its drawbacks too: several Kislings were withdrawn from the Sotheby's sale when the owner decided they might do better in Paris.

The star performer at Christie's was Marc Chagall's late oil *Les Souvenirs*, which made its low estimate at \$316,000, while Mordecai Ardon's rather overpriced *Vase of Flowers* went well over its top estimate at \$118,000. Chagall's *Mother and Child*, a gouache depicting his infant son held by mother Virginia Haggard McNeil and wrongly dated by a quarter of a century, went well below its lowest estimate at \$112,000. Incidentally, I have just learned that Virginia, who left Chagall for an even older man, is still alive and living in Belgium. Another Chagall gouache, overpriced, didn't sell.

Reuven Rubin's *Victory*



Marcel Janco: *The Red Sea*, oils (sold for \$13,225 at Christie's Tel Aviv)

Bouquet went well beyond its estimate at an impressive \$101,500, while his far more important *Still Life by an Open Window*, from the early Twenties, topped its best estimate at \$90,500.

The same price was achieved by a good *Kissling* oil of a vase of mimosa.

Also over its estimate was a recently revealed double-sided canvas by Nahum Gutman at \$66,300. A really vibrant *Kissling* of a Saint Tropez landscape got an expected \$61,900, and his head of a boy an expected \$21,000.

Other artists who sold well were Ludwig Blum; Camille Pissarro (a watercolor at \$27,600); Rodin; Lesser Ury (the charcoal drawing we reproduced earlier, at \$16,100); three oils by Mane-Katz; two Zadkines, a bronze and a gouache; Steinhilber; Eugene Zak; Tobiasse; Pasdin; Chana Orloff; Tiger; Nikel; Klapisch, and Arikha (a nude at \$46,000). A Karel Appel oil on paper brought \$13,800. But a 1983 London street scene by Brisa's Leon Kossof, which carried a lower estimate of \$80,000, did not find a buyer.

AT SOTHEBY'S, the hit of the sale was a superb and important early Reuven Rubin portrait *Girl with a Plant*, which not unexpectedly went way beyond its top estimate to sell to an international collector for \$156,500. This artist's

Old Arab House, another early work, went for an expected \$101,500, again to a non-Israeli. Ziona Tajar's 1927 oil *Ein Karen* doubled its estimate at \$112,500, as did Yehezkel Streichman's *Road to Eshkol*, at \$40,250. David Bomberg's oil *Pool of Hezekiah*, painted in 1925, went well over its estimate at \$96,000.

A sensuous oil by Avigdor Arikha, *Nude before a Mirror*, closed at \$79,500, almost its top estimate. *Village* by Henri Hayden went for a handsome \$101,500 to an international collector.

Dutch painter Isaac Israels' *Street Scene*, an impressionist painting of a prostitute, topped its best estimate when bought by an Israeli for \$81,700, much more than a work by his more widely known father, Jozef Israels, whose sentimental *Ray of Sunshine* went well over its estimate at \$64,100.

Isaac Israels, who died in 1934, is getting belated recognition and is the star of a forthcoming sale of impressionist and modernist works at Sotheby's Amsterdam this Tuesday.

An interesting '20s oil by Lesser Ury, *Lady in a Café* (reproduced in this column recently), went for its lower estimate at \$60,500.

A historical curiosity that did well was a 19th-century oil of Jerusalem by American orientalist James Fairman, who died in



Isidor Kaufmann (1853-1921): *Young Student* (sold for \$92,700 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)



Mordecai Ardon: *Vase of Flowers*, oils, 1936 (sold for \$118,000 at Christie's Tel Aviv)

1904 and who was a contemporary of the Hudson River School of landscapists and luminists. His sunset went for a respectable \$79,500.

SOTHEBY'S JUDAICA two-session sale in Tel Aviv the following day racked up the splendid sum of \$1.68m, despite the fact that half the 278 lots didn't sell. There were real surprises. A Hebrew vellum prayer book from Amsterdam, 1747, went for 15 times its estimate at an amazing \$156,500. While the beautiful 18th-century Altona Torah finials were knocked down far below their lower estimate at a mere \$79,500, the Rotger Herfurth finials from the same period tripled their estimate at \$59,700. A rich Polish silver Torah crown doubled its estimate at \$40,250.

A gem-set silver Torah pointer by Schott of Frankfurt, 1843, doubled its estimate at \$31,500. Also sold above their estimates were an exotic peacock Hanukkah lamp, 1860 (\$44,800); and an 18th-century Esther Scroll with borders engraved by Francesco Griselin (\$39,100).

Both Isidor Kaufmann paintings of a young student and a young rabbi went for an expected \$92,700 and \$79,500. Maurye Gottlieb's *Jewish Woman from the East* fetched an expected \$34,500.

Sotheby's next Judaica sale here is scheduled for October.

SOTHEBY'S FIRST sale of studio ceramics here did well for an undeveloped market but was hardly a great success: 112 of the 207 lots remained unsold, and the total take amounted to \$118,542.

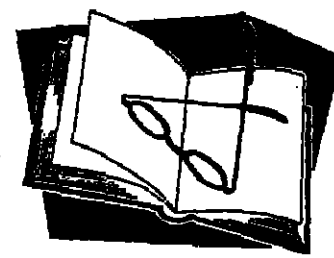
Top prices were paid for a wall plate by Cuban surrealist Wilfredo Lam and an amphora by Spain's Claudio Casanovas, \$18,975 and \$11,500, respectively. Works by Britain's Gabriele Koch and Edmund de Waal topped \$2,000. Israel's Dalit Tayar sold for \$3450; Lydia Zavadski at \$3220 and Mark Yudell at \$2990. All these went to international bidders.

But Israelis purchased most of the lots and some local ones for excellent prices: Yael Gurfinkel-Pasternak's three *Lidded Vessels* went for \$3,680; and two lots by Varda Yatom went for \$3,680 each. All this will certainly give local ceramicists a pleasurable jolt.

ON MAY 11, 12 and 13, Sotheby's Tel Aviv will hold a special series of sales linked to Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations. These auctions will offer works from the early Bezalel School and workshops; collectibles and memorabilia relating to the founding of the state and marking a century of Zionism; and photography of the Middle East, the Holy Land and Israel. Lots will go on display in both Jerusalem (Jerusalem International Convention Center May 3-5) and Tel Aviv.

The dark roots of slavery

Book Review



By Ray Jenkins

Slaves in the Family, by Edward Ball. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 489 pp., \$30.)

Well before its publication, this remarkable book created a sensation, and justifiably so. Not since William Faulkner wrote his masterpiece *Absalom, Absalom!* in 1936 has any writer rendered a more hauntingly poignant exploration of the dark roots and bitter fruits of slavery in America.

In 1698 a young Englishman named Elias "Red Cap" Ball arrived in South Carolina to claim a modest land inheritance, bringing with him 25 African slaves to do the grunt work of growing rice. Over the next six generations, Red Cap's descendants proliferated in number and

and make the story whole."

The author quickly learned that family tales of kindly and benign slave-owners were self-protective mythology, pure and simple. Rather, he found among his ancestors an ample distribution of benevolent "maussas," cruel tyrants and even one conscience-stricken family member who fled to New York because she no longer could bear the moral burden of the oppressor.

Nor did it come as any surprise when Ball began to discover irrefutable evidence that the very blood of the slaves and slave-owners over the centuries inevitably began to mingle.

The improbable journeyman-author drew upon a rich vein of written lore of his ancestors, but amazingly, he found an equally bountiful lode in the carefully kept oral tradition of the slaves. Indeed, he was able to trace one line of slaves all the way back to one "Angola Amy," a slave-girl brought to America in the early 1700s by old "Red Cap" Ball.

As the author climbed to the outer limbs of family trees, he found himself confronting the full range of human emotions among the people whose ancestors were owned by his ancestors and yet who were, in many cases, distant blood-cousins. He

The author quickly learned that family tales of kindly and benign slave-owners were self-protective mythology, pure and simple

wealth, while the slaves proliferated only in number.

By the time of the Civil War, some 4,000 slaves had drugged like oxen on the vast Ball plantations. When the war ended, the Balls were bereft, and the slaves cast across the land. Today their progeny may number as many as 100,000.

Labored under this generational "crime," Ball reconstructed a history all but erased by time and myth. His rationale was simple: "It would be a mistake to say that I felt guilt for the past. A person cannot be culpable for the acts of others, long dead. The plantation heritage was not 'ours,' like a piece of property, and not theirs, belonging to black families, but a shared history. We have been in each other's lives. We have been in each other's dreams. We have been in each other's bed. I thought we should meet, share our recollections, feelings and dreams,

found generosity, suspicion and, at times, outright rancor, but he persevered.

An epilogue produces a suspenseful surprise. Like a driven man, Ball goes to Africa to seek the descendants of the Africans who sold their fellow tribesmen into abject bondage. Remarkably, he found a fair number, and there were tense meetings as he confronted contemporary African nobility whose very corpulence amid stark want demonstrated that they, too, enjoyed the fruits of the evil trade to this day.

In the end there is an awkwardly contrived ritual in which the guilty parties, black and white alike, carry out a curious symbolic act of contrition on a remote creek bank in Africa where the chained captives were put into boats for their journey to a new world and a new history.

Would that this act of absolution truly have ended the sorrowful tale. (The Baltimore Sun)

book

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by Joan Nathan

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Earthly Concerns



By Dvora Ben Shaul

Over the past 40 years the world population has doubled. At this rate the world will soon be unable to sustain its population.

How can we maintain an annual birth rate that is no more than the annual death rate? That's one of the questions being explored by the Population Control Research

Center, a non-profit US research group.

Today's birth rate is 130 million a year, while the death rate is 50 million. The very high relative birth figure is due to the large number of women reaching reproductive age, compared to the relatively small number of elderly people in the world.

One way of balancing this ledger, say the researchers, is to try to delay reproduction.

In most developing countries women marry at an average age of 14 1/2 and give birth by 15 1/2. Raising the legal age for marriage to 18 would delay reproduction by about four years.

Furthermore, if women could not marry until 18, then - so goes the reasoning - more of them would continue their education into secondary school. It has long been



In most developing countries women marry at an average age of 14 1/2 and give birth by 15 1/2. (AP)

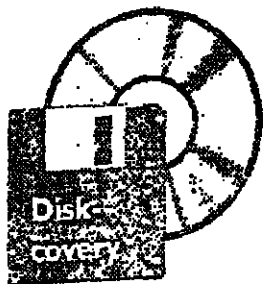
recognized that women with a high school education usually have

smaller families. In Pakistan, for instance, where girls can marry at

14, the population increase is more than twice as rapid as in Bangladesh, where 18 is the minimum age for marrying. Both are strictly Moslem countries based on rural economies.

This fact has led the researchers to the conclusion that simply raising the minimum marriage age and encouraging female education might well be one of the most effective ways of stemming the population explosion. The researchers point out that every year that a birth is delayed allows one more year for another person to reach advanced age and, to be bluntly, die. This, of course, helps stabilize the rate of population increase. In addition, better educated women are more capable of taking control of family planning and less likely to see their only role in life as that of constant reproduction.

Great disk for green thumbs



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Tzinhci Bayit Be'kalei Kalut ("Houseplants Made Easy"), a CD-ROM in both Hebrew and English, by New World Media (Tel. Mond) and Wende's Nurseries (Moshav Ein Vered), for all ages. NIS 129 at Steimatzky and Sifri stores and at Wende's Garden Centers. Rating: ★★★★★

At first glance, this program looked like yet another translation of foreign software, that might have a lot of information about houseplants not relevant to Israel. But a closer look showed that both the botanical information and the computer expertise is blue-and-white — and very impressive.

Vaun Wende, the president of the nurseries and the garden centers he founded, linked up with a

excellent software company, New World Media, to produce this encyclopedia on 210 houseplants.

It is better than any printed volume could be, as it is interactive, and lets you look for plants that have up to five different characteristics.

You can search not only by name (the botanical names in Latin and Hebrew, as well as any common names in English and Hebrew) or by type, but also by traits, including foliage, flowering season, uniqueness, location, longevity, light, uses, ease of growing, height, width, tolerance.

Thus eight of the 210 are poisonous (including the poinsettia, dieffenbachia camille, "crown of thorns," and the chenille plant, to give a few examples); but there are 16 types of succulents, three types of orchids, 63 types of flowering and 11 types of fragrant plants, seven plants with blue flowers, 16 with decorative fruit, 33 over two meters high and 19 that live longer than a decade.

The authors, admittedly, get quite romantic about flora: "House plants are old friends and companions, managing to calm us in troubled times and imparting freshness and stability

to our often confused lives."

That's a quote one might expect from Britain's Prince Charles, who reportedly converses with his houseplants.

THERE IS a very helpful introduction section, with a variety of subjects such as plant names (the genus is always capitalized, the species isn't and the variety is); watering and feeding basics, common problem, potting and pruning.

The disk reminds amateur gardeners to always water plants at room temperature and to feed them only with slow-release fertilizers suited to Israel, as the high calcium levels of its hard water makes the soil very alkaline.

In addition, Israel's natural soils are not suited to houseplant culture, the disk warns, so use only high-quality, commercial products.

Among the conditions that shorten the lives of houseplants are brown spots, sudden leaf drop, beetle-like insects and too generous watering.

All the plants are listed alphabetically, either in Hebrew or English. Each page gives a detailed description of the plant, whether its easy or hard to grow, life expectancy, types of leaves, temperature, light and other requirements.

There is also a color photo of the plant and a close-up of its leaves or flowers, each of which can be clicked to zoom in for a full-screen photo. There is a helpful glossary with a few dozen horticultural terms.

The disk is so user-friendly that it doesn't even have to be installed: just place it in the disk drive and it goes on.

The only things that keep it from earning the top rating are the lack of multimedia capacity.

There is no background music or any sound at all, except for clicking noises when you hit a button on the screen, and no video clips of attractive homes with abundant houseplants. Including these would have made it perfect.

Michael Ve'Avner Be'olam Ha'metzu'arim ("Michael and Avner in the Animated World"), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, by CD-Worm Ltd. and Talit Limor, distributed by Bug Multisystems, for the whole family. NIS 149. Rating: ★★

The best thing about this "interactive adventure," which capitalizes on the popularity of Children's Channel star Michael



The content of 'Michael and Avner in the Animated World' is as flimsy as cotton candy

Yanai, is that it can be uninstalled in three seconds flat!

Although marketed "for the whole family," it's unlikely to appeal to anybody over the age of seven — except perhaps to diehard teen fans of the blonde bombshell who are willing to forgive the content, which is as flimsy as cotton candy.

Michael, in the flesh, really has only a cameo role in this piece of soft software.

In the introduction, the user is asked to paint her clothing and make her an animated character, along with Avner, a cloth-and-rubber character who stars with her on cable TV. The rest of the disk consists of half a dozen games, all well animated but none of them original.

There is a snowboarding track, in which you primitively maneuver Michael by pressing the left and right-arrow keys to help her avoid oncoming dangers, such as snowmen, turkeys and people. If she gets hit and falls down, you lose points. This quickly becomes tiresome.

There is a musical composition section, in which kids can select percussion accompaniment or

solo instruments to produce their own short piece of "music," which the animated Michael and Avner will dance to or the composition can be saved and replayed. But the music is very primitive.

There is an excuse of a math section, in which simple problems like 3+4 — must be answered from among a handful of numbers on balloons. How in the world could the developers think this is meant for "the whole family"?

There is a "kiosk" where food items drop on Avner, our cartoon hero, who has a limited amount of ammunition in his pea-shooter to knock them out before they knock him down. And there is a simple word game in which you play against Michael or somebody else to guess the word after adding a letter one at a time.

The developers of this program are so proud of themselves, for some reason, that in the credit section they present a gallery of their photographs, some of them with their tongue stuck out at the user. The user will probably consider the feeling mutual.

Evolution vs. 'creationism'

By RENE SANCHEZ

More than seven decades after John Scopes was tried and convicted for teaching evolution in a Tennessee school, the US National Academy of Sciences fears that many American schools are bucking to new pressure not to teach the subject. The academy declared that the subject must be a vital part of science instruction and that lessons on creationism do not belong in those classes.

In an unusual move, the academy is issuing an elaborate guidebook for teachers that details how evolution should be discussed with students and how sensitive questions, including those from parents, can be answered. The book calls evolution the most important concept in modern biology, but contends that

there are growing campaigns across the US to limit or prohibit discussion of the subject in science classes. Several school boards have ordered teachers to give equal time to creationism, and lawmakers in a few states want to remove the term evolution from their science curricula altogether. In Alabama, biology textbooks now include a disclaimer telling student that evolution is only a controversial theory.

Few issues in education are older or more contentious: many religious conservatives want schools to teach students that God created the Earth in six days, as described in the Bible. Or they at least want that view to be given the same credibility as the theory of evolution, which holds that life on Earth developed over billions of years.

But the nation's scientific community, backed by a 1987 Supreme Court ruling on the issue, has long argued that public schools should ban discussions of creationism because it is a purely religious concept not supported by scientific evidence. Although school districts are not required to accept its advice,

Charles Darwin

since matters of curriculum are controlled locally, the academy's guide could provide a powerful tool for educators who want to continue teaching evolution. Many of them welcomed the academy's leap back into the debate.

"This is a very real problem for teachers," said Wayne Carley, the president of the National Association of Biology Teachers. "And it's definitely on the increase."

Some religious conservatives, however, scoffed at the academy's stance and said the decision to teach evolution or creationism, or both, should be a strictly local one. "We believe communities have the right to have their values reflected in the curriculum," said Anne Owens, a spokesman for the Christian Coalition. "Public schools are harmed when they exclude important, legitimate points of view."

Academy leaders insisted that they were not trying to discredit religious beliefs. The guide, for example, asserts that people can believe in God and accept evolution; it says that many scientists who support the theory are also deeply religious.

(The Washington Post)



Both the botanical information and the computer expertise on this disk are very impressive.

Here come the robot crawlers

By VICKI BROWN

Robot "insects" that could someday help soldiers scout enemy positions or aid scientists exploring other planets, are being developed by two American scientists with a \$900,000 grant from the Pentagon.

The two mechanical engineering professors, Ephraim Garcia and Michael Goldfarb from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee are working on the bugs and hope to equip the tiny machines with sensors or a camera to relay information.

"For all our intelligence-gathering ability, air surveillance and satellite photos, we still can't see over the next hill. Soldiers are sort of blind beyond their line of sight," Garcia said.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which developed the technology that created the Internet, awarded the professors a three-year contract. They hope to build a prototype by June.

"They are basically going to be small, mostly metallic, battery-operated bugs, with four to six legs. They'll be about five centimeters long, about the size of a large beetle," Goldfarb said, and made of titanium or steel.

The electronics and mechanics must be efficient if the bugs are to be useful, because they will have limited battery power, Garcia added.

The professors plan to use piezoelectric ceramics to get the maximum energy from a battery. A thin, ceramic-coated metal plate will be on top of the bug's skeleton.

Voltage from the battery will be applied to that plate, which bends when electricity is supplied and snaps back to original form when the voltage stops.

The motion of the plate will make the bug's legs move. The technology is the same as that which makes a pager vibrate.

"We can't really control the speed, but it takes very little energy," Goldfarb said. Bill Warren, DARPA program

manager in the defense sciences office, said that approach is one reason the agency funded the Vanderbilt research.

"It's like charging it up and letting it go," Warren said, describing it as "a really novel" system because it uses so little power.

Just attaching a battery would not work because the energy would be drained by the time the bug went 100 meters, Garcia explained.

One big hurdle for the professors is that the ceramic plate restricts motion.

"We need to be pretty smart about how we get it to move so the skeleton has a fairly large stride. If the stride is a quarter of a millimeter, we won't get far," Goldfarb said. One to two millimeters would be good; more than two would be great, the professors said.

"If it goes 15 meters in the sand and dies, we've learned something, but it might not be practical," Goldfarb said.

One advantage of the crawlers should be their price tag. "The cost will be in the design, not the manufacture," Goldfarb said.

Building a prototype will cost about \$100, but if the bugs were mass-produced, the cost could be as low as \$10, depending on the type of sensor or camera used, the developers said.

Ensuring that the bugs are cheap is important, because "we're not counting on them returning," Goldfarb said.

That means thousands could be sent out to gather information, which increases the chances of getting usable data.

"For instance, you have one Mars Rover and if that machine goes down, the mission fails," Garcia explained.

"What if we were to land 10,000 robotic insects on the planet and send them out in every direction? Each insect would have only a minimal amount of power and probably only one sensor, but we've distributed the risk. If we lost one, it failed, ran out of power or got trapped, the mission wouldn't be in jeopardy at all." (AP)

TELL ME WHY



You can wipe the magnetic strip of your credit card, but don't wet it.

(Brian Handler)

Make your credit card work like magic

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

When I go to some stores, the credit-card reading machines there sometimes don't respond to my card. The cashier rubs the magnetic tape on a piece of clothing or even puts saliva on it, and this often makes it work. Is it friction? Is it magic? How do you explain this? Shlomo, Herzliya

Y.O., a staffer at the Haifa Technion's electrical engineering department, replies:

There is no magic. Wiping the magnetic tape on the back of the credit card removes oily fingerprints that prevent the card reading machines from accepting the data. But wetting the tape, with saliva or water, is not recommended, as it could cause damage.

I read somewhere that even when electric devices are turned off, they use electricity. Is this possible? And if so, should one take out the plugs of electrical

devices when they're not being used? Amir, Tel Aviv

The same Technion engineer answers this one too:

There are numerous electronic and electric devices, especially those with a power supply or a transformer, that use negligible amounts of electricity even when turned off. Among them are TV sets and some types of refrigerators.

But I don't recommend that you pull the plug out on these devices, as doing so frequently can cause mechanical wear on both the plug and the electrical outlet, and if the device is "on" when the plug is connected to power, it may cause a surge that can harm the device. You can leave the plug in, and the best advice is to read the user's manual on every device and follow its recommendations.

What makes stomachs rumble when their owners are hungry? How can acid make this noise? Mendy, Tel Aviv

the gastroenterology department at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, answers:

The rumbling noise is not from the stomach acid, but from the peristalsis, which is contraction of muscles inside the digestive system.

When one hasn't eaten for some time, the stomach is usually empty, but there is air and water in the small intestine. If there were solid food there, the peristalsis would not make noise. But when there's only air and water in the intestine, it's like squeezing a balloon: it makes a growling noise.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9577, or send it by e-mail to jmie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

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Lasers target unwanted tattoos



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

I was a hippy in my 20s, and now that I'm 40, and have become religious, I want to get rid of a big tattoo on my arm. What is the best (and most painless) way of doing this - chemicals, mechanically or lasers? D.R., Jerusalem

Dr. David Friedman, director of the Jerusalem's Lase-Ohr Clinic and a former assistant professor of dermatology at Brown University in Rhode Island, replies:

Chemical and mechanical methods were used years ago to remove tattoos, but they cause significant pain and almost always left scars. Dermabrasion of the skin introduces the risk of infections, and chemicals have to go so deep into the layers of the skin that they destroy everything along with way. The only advantage of these primitive techniques was that they were cheaper than the best treatment today, laser removal of tattoos, but I know of no responsible dermatologist who will use the old methods.

There have been great advances in the use of lasers, and our clinic frequently treats penitent Jews - both men and women - who feel uncomfortable with or embarrassed by their tattoos.

The laser has to operate on a q-switch system, which is an engineering term meaning a very short-pulse duration. When the laser is turned on, each pulse duration can be measured in nanoseconds. The laser breaks the tattoo pigment into small pieces, and then it is flushed out by the body.

There are three types - alexandrite, YAG and ruby, but the latter is not recommended for people with dark skin. Our clinic has a YAG and will soon get an alexandrite laser.

Scars are rare. If the tattoo was done by an amateur, removing it will require one to three treatments spaced six weeks apart; if it was done by a professional, it will take three to seven visits, as the dye is deeper. A local or topical anesthetic is applied, and the cost is NIS 400 per treatment.

My 13-year-old son often cracks his knuckles. He says he is



There have been great advances recently in the use of lasers to remove tattoos. (Karen Ben-Zion)

not in pain, but does it anyway. Is this dangerous to the joints? The noise bothers me: is there any way to get him to stop it? S.R., Hod Hasharon

Prof. Shlomo Porat, a senior pediatric orthopedist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, answers: Cracking knuckles is common - and harmless - at all ages. It is believed to occur because of the vacuum effect: a small amount of air collects in certain joints, especially in the hands. Hyperextending the fingers releases this air and makes a cracking noise.

This does not involve any pathological problem, so there is nothing to worry about. But it isn't easy to get a person to stop it.

Over the years, I have had countless x-ray photos taken of various parts of my body. They were pre-operative, post-operative, for orthopedic problems, broken fingers, chest examinations, etc. I cannot recall a single occasion when the requesting doctor, surgeon or specialist has even so much as glanced at, let alone read, the accompanying report of the x-ray result written

by the radiologist. Why is this? S.D., Haifa

Prof. Jacob Bar-Ziv, chairman of the radiology departments of the Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus, answers: I really can't explain or excuse such behavior; it could be due to laziness or the doctor thinking he knows better.

General practitioners who don't study radiology seriously in medical school should read the report, which includes a diagnosis. Even orthopedists and other specialists who were taught to read an x-ray should read the radiologist's report; if they don't, they're making a mistake.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to jusie@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Cigars aren't cool - they're carcinogenic

By JOSEPH SCHUMAN and MELISSA HEALY

Despite the current campaign by the tobacco industry to make cigars appear a "trendy" and "safe" alternative to cigarettes, researchers insist that smoking cigars can be just as deadly as smoking cigarettes.

While cigarette use has declined in the US, the rate of cigar smoking has risen 50 percent since 1993 - especially among teenagers - and it presents just as great a risk of cancer, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) declared.

Smoking one to two cigars a day - even if the smoke isn't inhaled - doubles a person's risk of developing cancer of the esophagus and oral cavity (including mouth, throat, lip or tongue). Such a regular cigar smoker is six times more likely than a non-smoker to develop cancer of the larynx, the study concludes. And those who inhale cigar smoke or who smoke more than a couple a day boost their risk of developing such cancers astronomically.

For inhalers, the likelihood of developing laryngeal cancers increases by a whopping 53-fold, and they are 27 times more likely to suffer from oral cancers.

Cigars are not safe alternatives to cigarettes and may be addictive, the NCI said.

For those who share the air with a cigar smoker, the health picture is also less than glamorous. Compared to a cigarette, a large lit cigar emits 20 times the ammonia, up to 10 times more cadmium and methylnitrosamine (both cancer-causing agents), and as much as 90 times more of the highly carcinogenic nitrosamines specific to tobacco, according to the NCI's 232-page report.

The concentration of carbon monoxide at two cigar social events in San Francisco was higher than the levels found on a busy California freeway, the report said.

In addition, smoke from a single large cigar burned in a home takes five hours to dissipate. A large cigar emits up to 20 times more ammonia than a cigarette and five to 10 times more cadmium.

"It doesn't matter what you smoke but how you smoke," said study coordinator Donald Shopland. "Even people who don't smoke many cigars and don't inhale still face a substantial health risk."

Shopland, who worked on the 1964 study that led to the US Surgeon-General's warning on American cigarette packages, said the authors of the latest report hope

it will serve the same purpose for cigars. Although the US government requires health warnings for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, cigars come without warnings. And the Clinton administration left out cigars when it gave jurisdiction over most tobacco goods to the Food and Drug Administration.

NCI officials surmised that much of the increase in cigar smoking - especially a cigar-smoking boom among teenagers - has taken place under the misapprehension that cigars are a safe alternative to cigarettes. Adolescent cigar use is also high, with 31.2% of teenage boys lighting up and 10.8% of girls using cigars, Shopland said.

To those thinking about smoking cigars, our advice is - don't," said Richard Klausner, the institute's director.

What is clear from the report is that while cigar-smoking can be harmful, cigarettes continue to exact a higher toll. That is partly because cigarette smokers tend to smoke more - and more often - than cigar smokers, and they almost always inhale.

For instance, while the report found that regular cigar smokers have risks of oral and esophageal cancers similar to those of cigarette smokers, they have lower risks of coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease than cigarette smokers - but of course much higher rates than non-smokers.

The report comes as a smoldering battle over tobacco regulation flared up with major tobacco companies' decision to fight major anti-tobacco legislation.

"If the National Cancer Institute is saying that regular cigar smoking is roughly as dangerous as cigarette smoking, I would expect people would want health warnings," said Federal Trade Commission chairman Robert Pitofsky. Shopland, who coordinated the production of the study, suggested it could propel the government to impose advertising restrictions or warning labels on cigars.

Shopland believes the increase is due to cigar makers' marketing strategies aimed at upwardly mobile, well-educated consumers, who are less inclined to smoke cigarettes. Using the glossy magazine *Cigar Aficionado*, which features cigar-smoking celebrities striking urbane poses on its cover, the industry has presented cigars like fine wines and has seen the sale of premium cigars rise 250%. The celebrities include Arnold Schwarzenegger, Demi Moore, Wayne Gretzky, Danny DeVito and businessman Ron Perleman, but the profiles almost never mention the health effects of cigar

smoking. The growing popularity of cigars has also given rise to cigar bars across the country.

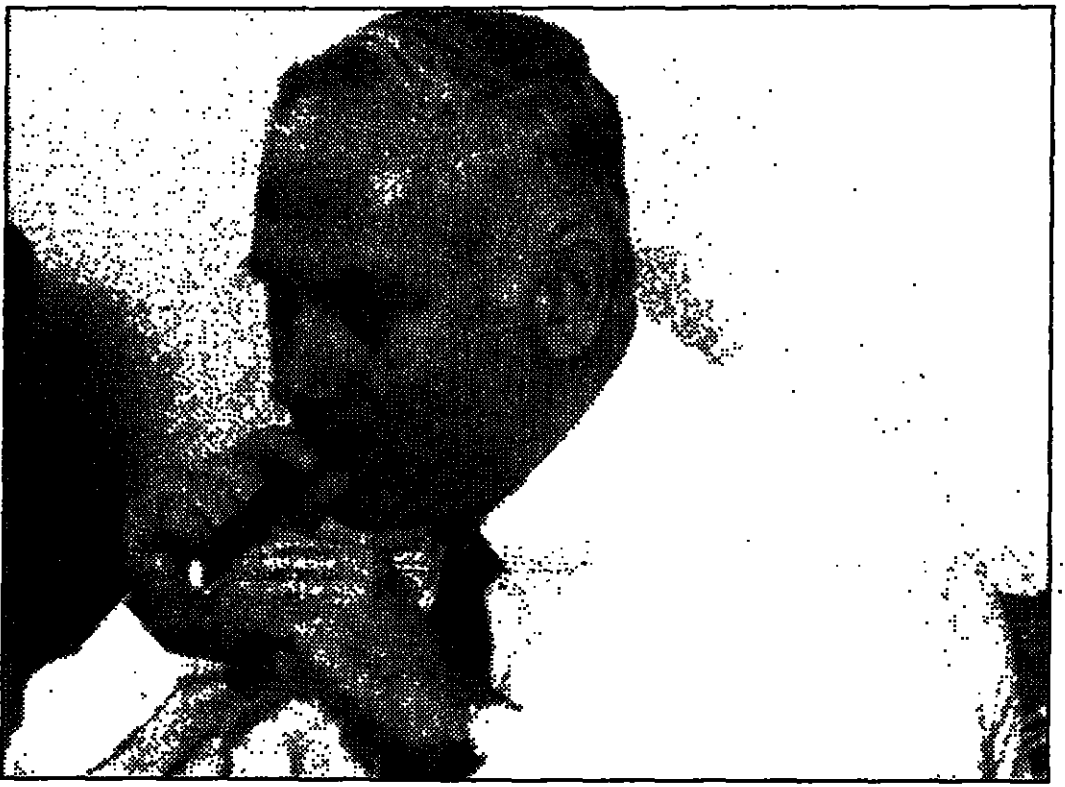
Cigar smoking - a habit that fell steadily out of favor from 1973 to 1993 - has regained popularity from barrooms to boardrooms, as well as among both sexes.

For the beleaguered tobacco industry, the small and specialized cigar market is currently a rare bright spot. The cigar industry responded to the report with a statement that congratulated the good taste of cigar aficionados while making no direct comment on the study's findings.

"Cigar smokers are mature, well-informed individuals who freely choose to enjoy a product that has brought pleasure to millions of people over the past 500 years, and to the extent that this report adds to their knowledge, we welcome it," said Norman Sharp, president of the Cigar Association of America.

But the report prompted John Garrison, chief executive officer of the American Lung Association, to warn that far from being "one of the finer things in life," cigars "are simply a more malodorous version of cigarettes. Both cause cancer, both are addictive, and both are major sources of harmful second-hand smoke."

(AP and Los Angeles Times)



Netanyahu isn't alone: Cigar smoking has regained popularity from barrooms to boardrooms. (Tav-Or)

Convenient may now mean healthful

By CAROLE SUGARMAN

Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, which have the image of being less healthful than their fresh counterparts, have been awarded a victory by the US Food and Drug Administration: Manufacturers of preserved produce may now label them "healthy" (the grammatically correct but infrequently used word is "healthful").

The recent announcement was lauded as a great win by officials in the frozen- and canned-food industries, who have long maintained that what they sell is as nutritious as the raw stuff.

"All forms of fruits and vegetables - canned, frozen and raw - are important to a healthful diet," says Regina Hildwine, director of food labeling at the National Food Processors Association. "We had argued that it was misleading to consumers to draw distinctions. They could get the idea that a carrot was healthful, but a canned or frozen green bean was not."

Consumers may also get the idea that manufacturers of canned and frozen produce had previously been prohibited from using the word "healthy" and that fresh, frozen and canned produce have now been proven exactly alike. But it's a lot more complicated than that.

In 1994, the FDA issued its first definition of "healthy," saying the word could be used on the label if a food was low in fat and saturated fat, met limits for sodium and cholesterol, and contained at least 10 percent of the recommended daily allowance of either vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron, protein or fiber.

It was nicknamed the "Jelly Bean Rule," since the minimum nutrient requirements were meant to prevent sweets from claiming they were healthy.

The FDA realized, however, that the rule would exclude some fresh fruits and vegetables, since some of them do not contain at least 10% of the daily recommended allowances of those nutrients.

But recognizing that Americans



It doesn't have to be fresh to be healthy. Frozen and canned produce can be good for you too - and will soon have the labels to prove it. (Israel Talby)

have been constantly advised to eat more fruits and vegetables to achieve a healthful diet, the FDA said raw produce could be labeled "healthy" without meeting the requirements.

The associations that represent the canned- and frozen-food industries petitioned the FDA for the same exemption, which it has now granted.

The new exemption is not for all canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. It only applies to single-ingredient products, without oils, sauces, syrups or other additions. And it doesn't apply to canned vegetables packed in brine, which is how most canned vegetables are sold - even though when you drain the liquid, you get rid of about 80% of the sodium.

Another complication is the question of nutritional equivalency. The FDA concluded that freezing and canning processes "gener-

ally maintain nutrient levels comparable to the raw version."

Raw fruits and vegetables may lose some of their nutrients during the two weeks it may take to get them from the farm to the supermarket; frozen and canned items are packed within hours of harvest, says the industry.

The canning process can reduce levels of vitamin C, but a food that's a good source of the vitamin when it goes into the can will still be a good source once it's in there, says Barbara Klein, a professor of food science and human nutrition at the University of Illinois, who has conducted research for the canning industry.

Still, the nutritional data are not "crystal-clear," she acknowledges. That's because the information comes from such a wide variety of sources and there's a huge variability in produce, depending on where it's grown, the season, and

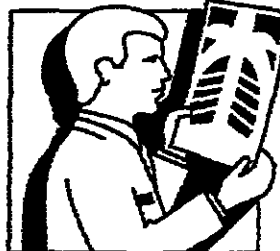
how and where it's packed, shipped and stored.

Bonnie Liebman, director of nutrition for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, says anything that gets people to eat more fruits and vegetables, whether they're fresh, canned or frozen, is a good thing. But she doubts that slapping a "healthy" label on a can of corn would make any difference.

"Are people not eating more fruits and vegetables because they think they're not healthful?" she asks. Klein said that seeing "healthy" labels on frozen and canned produce will help people not feel guilty about eating something that's convenient.

"The push to 'eat your vegetables' has turned people off because they think they can't eat anything but fresh produce," she says. (The Washington Post)

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Methadone, the drug given as a heroin substitute to addicts, has been found to be an "almost ideal drug" for relieving severe pain in babies and children hospitalized for cancer, burns and other conditions. Drs. Yoram Shir, Victor Shvelton and Gila Rosen of the pain treatment service at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital write in the latest issue of *Harefuah* that methadone in syrup form can be a boon for such youngsters.

Over the decades, children's severe pain has been too little treated. The reasons, the authors explain, are several: that it was thought that children have a different threshold of pain than adults and suffer less; pain in infants is hard to assess, since they can't communicate it except to cry, which can be due to other reasons; fear of causing serious side effects or addiction from drugs; and the lack of scientific research on the subject.

For these reasons, many children were not given any pain relievers after major surgery. But more recently, methadone - an opioid that can be taken orally - has been given to children as young as eight months up to 10 years for serious pain.

The Hadassah pain experts found they could give young children methadone without causing significant side effects or causing withdrawal symptoms when it was discontinued.

Among their patients was an eight-year-old boy whose two feet were crushed in a road accident and suffered from great pain after surgery. Other patients were a

three-year-old girl with leukemia and a two-year-old boy with liver veno-occlusive disease that required a bone-marrow transplant.

The dosage is 0.1 milligram per kilo weight every four hours until pain is completely relieved, with increasing intervals over time to prevent an overdose (it is, after all, a narcotic). "In our view," they conclude, "methadone can serve as the medication of choice for children's chronic and severe pain who can take it orally and need opioids."

DOORWAY TO COLD CURE

Harvard Medical School and Purdue University researchers claim to have moved a step closer to curing the common cold by creating an image of the "doorway" used by the cold virus to infect human cells. Using a technique known as X-ray crystallography to make an atomic map of the receptor, they demonstrated the path the virus uses to infect cells. But treatment would not be as simple as just blocking the doorway, as the receptor is also used by the body's immune cells.

Timothy Springer, who headed the Harvard team, reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that their finding could lead to a treatment for the common cold by designing better drug molecules to bind to the virus and block its ability to bind to the receptor.

The receptor, called ICAM-1 (intracellular adhesion molecule one), consists of a single protein and looks like a five-part arm extending from a "shoulder" in the cell's outside membrane. "Our study shows that the very top of the ICAM-1 molecule is shaped somewhat like a hand, with a thumb and three projections or fingers," said Jordi Bella, a researcher at Indiana's Purdue.

Usually the receptor molecules help hold infection-fighting immune cells in place while they do their work after an injury or trauma. But the family of rhinoviruses

responsible for 70 percent of human colds have "hijacked" the receptor to get into the cells they infect.

"Normally white blood cells bind to the thumb-like projections," Bella said. "But the virus binds to the three finger-like projections and interacts with the receptor to gain entry into the cell."

Humans and chimpanzees may have unique ICAM-1 receptors, which would explain why only people and their close relatives, the chimps, catch colds.

Springer said the virus, which attacks the epithelial cells in the nose, probably also stimulates the cells that make mucus.

This would explain the sneezing and the runny nose caused by a cold, which may stimulate the nose to make more mucus in a way that will help spread the virus.

WRAPPING BREAD

The law that requires bakeries to cover cartons of bread tightly to prevent animals from reaching them as the boxes wait for grocery stores to open has been widely ignored, says Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Ben-Zion. Cats, dogs and even rats may sample the bread before its paying customers.

He recently held an "urgent meeting" with representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and public health officials in his own ministry to find a solution to the problem.

Ben-Zion blames the lack of manpower in the ministries and the minimal fines for failing to deter violators. It was agreed that the existing law be enforced: district health offices were instructed to send out inspectors and to fine violators.

In addition, the Ministry of Industry and Trade will look into the cost of wrapping each loaf in plastic.

If the extra price is minimal and the freshness of the bread is not harmed, the possibility of requiring individual wrapping will be examined, Ben-Zion says.

US stocks slip as caution grips market

New York

The Dow Jones industrial average nearly sank below 9,000 Friday with the earnings-reporting season winding down and investors finding few prospects for good news on the near-term horizon.

The Dow slid as much as 123 points late in the session before closing 78.71 points - or 0.8 percent - lower at 9,064.62.

Broad-market also sank for the second straight day as investors locked more gains from the stock market's latest rally into record territory. The Dow, which sank 33 points on Thursday, closed at a record 9,184.94 on Tuesday. Stocks were also pressured by reports that J.P. Morgan had recommended that its clients cut back on their exposure to stocks. Instead, the investment firm said, more money should be put into bonds and cash.

"The market has run a mile at a sprinter's pace and most people believe the market needs to rest a bit," said Alan Ackerman, senior vice president at Fehnstock and Co. "It's not surprising to see profit-taking at this point."

Disney and Merck fell sharply as the Dow's two biggest decliners, negating a big gain from Hewlett-Packard, which rallied after an upbeat assessment by Prudential Securities.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by more than a 2-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 887 up, 2,076 down and 521 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 632.27 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 651.97 million in the previous session.

(AP)



Dow Jones 9064.6 ▼ 0.8%
FTSE 5785.7 ▼ 0.6%
Nikkei 10879.93 ▼ 0.3%

Europe

European bourses ended with big losses on Friday, weighed down by profit-taking in banking stocks and a late decline on Wall Street. London and Frankfurt led the way down with a big sell-off in the financial sector as merger speculation subsided after fueling recent gains. Milan closed with losses of nearly four percent.

Equity markets saw volatile trade. Besides Milan, Madrid had a rough day, plunging three percent at one point before recovering some poise. But the bigger bourses also suffered body-blows. The UK's FTSE 100 index of blue chip stocks ended down 0.6 percent, after tumbling in early trade by more than 100 points to 5785.7, its lowest level in five weeks, before recovering in the afternoon to close at 5785.7.

London saw the banking sector fall as investors switched into sterling-sensitive stocks. The pound weakened as Britain's GDP data came in slightly below expectations.

Lloyds TSB Group fell the most out of the leading banks, down by about four percent in late trade. NatWest shed 2.4%, Abbey National 2.6% and Royal Bank of Scotland three percent. In Frankfurt, shares closed 2.2% lower in post-bourse electronic trading. The Xetra DAX closed at 5144.42 points, down 118.15.

Asia

Asian stock markets ended the week mixed Friday, with share prices rising in Tokyo but falling in Hong Kong.

Japanese shares were boosted by Finance Minister Hikoichi Matsunaga's comment earlier Friday that the government's latest economic package would include a pledge to look at making expected one-time tax breaks permanent. The benchmark Nikkei Stock Average of 225 selected issues rose 249.53 points, or 1.58 percent, closing the week at 16,011.24 points.

Share prices in Hong Kong closed generally lower for the second straight day in thin trading. The Hang Seng Index, the Hong Kong market's key indicator of blue chips, fell 39.01 points, or 0.3%, closing at 10,879.93.

Brokers said share prices opened lower in reaction to an overnight slump on Wall Street, but that futures-related buying in the afternoon erased some of the earlier losses.

Elsewhere: KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian shares closed mostly higher as market sentiment remained upbeat following the well received merger details between RHB Bank Bhd. and Sime Bank Bhd. (AP)

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

AMEX

Am Israel Paper Mills	33.75	-0.25
Am Israel Paper Mills	33.75	-0.25
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NASDAQ

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NYSE

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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PARIS

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FRANKFURT

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

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OTHER MARKET INDEXES

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DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

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US COMMODITIES

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

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LONDON METAL FIXES

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

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PARIS

75	Pub Svc Enterpr	34.0625
	Pug Snd Pwr	26
	Quaker Oats	53.8125
25	Qualcomm	56.6875
5	Quorum Corp	31.3125
275	RJR Nabisco	28.375

Cone wins on return to Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The New York Yankees enjoyed a successful return to their repaired stadium on Friday with a comfortable 8-4 win over the Detroit Tigers, their 12th victory in 13 games.

David Cone allowed two runs over 6 1/3 innings and Darryl Strawberry and Scott Brosius combined for five RBIs as 75-year-old Yankee Stadium re-opened with principal owner George Steinbrenner watching on from the area where a 500-pound steel beam flamed a seat earlier this month.

Strawberry belted his fifth homer of the season, a two-run blast that highlighted a four-run first inning and Brosius collected three hits, including RBI singles in the third and seventh.

Detroit starter Greg Knease (0-4) was reached for five runs and 10 hits over 4 2/3 innings as the Tigers lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Red Sox 7, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Reggie Jefferson drove in three runs, Darren Bragg belted a two-run homer and Tim Wakefield settled down after allowing three first-inning runs as the Boston Red Sox rallied for their fifth straight victory 7-5 over the Indians.

Jefferson's two-run double in the third cut Cleveland's lead to 3-2 and he added an RBI groundout in a three-run fifth as Boston took the lead for good. Bragg hit his second homer of the season in the sixth that extended the lead to 7-3. Wakefield (1-1) allowed four runs and seven hits over six innings, walking none and striking out three.

Blue Jays 3, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Pat Hentgen allowed one run over seven innings and Jose Canseco hit his eighth homer as the Toronto Blue Jays snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-1 victory over the White Sox. Hentgen (3-1) limited the White Sox to five hits and one walk with three strikeouts. He was aided by five double plays, including four from the second through fifth innings.

Canseco hit a solo homer 410 feet

over the left-center field fence in the second inning before Ed Sprague and Alex Gonzalez drove in runs in the fifth.

Athletics 10, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Kenny Rogers allowed one run in his first complete game of the season and red-hot Scott Spiezio hit a three-run homer in a six-run first inning as the Oakland Athletics claimed their first road win of 1998, 10-1 over the slumping Orioles. Rogers (3-1) yielded eight hits while striking out a season-high nine in winning his second straight start. Baltimore lost for the seventh time in nine games after a 10-2 start.

Royals 11, Rangers 4

In Kansas City, Jeff King's three-run homer highlighted an eight-run third inning and the Royals tagged John Burkett for 11 earned runs in an 11-4 victory over the Texas Rangers. Jose Offerman, Dean Palmer and Felix Martinez had two RBIs apiece for the Royals, who have alternated wins and losses over their last 11 games. Burkett (1-3) surrendered 11 hits, walked two and struck out six as his ERA skyrocketed to 9.31.

Angels 10, Devil Rays 3

In Tampa Bay, Allen Watson pitched his third career complete game and the Anaheim Angels got a spark from the bottom of their order in a 10-3 pounding of the Devil Rays. Watson (1-2) gave up eight hits, struck out five and walked one to get the victory.

Damon Mashore, Norberto Martin and Gary DiSarcina - Anaheim's seventh, eighth and ninth batters - combined for seven hits and five RBIs.

Mariners 4, Twins 2

In Seattle, Ken Cloutie allowed one run over 7 1/3 innings and Edgar Martinez hit a pair of solo home runs as the Mariners defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-2. Cloutie (3-1) allowed five hits, walked two and struck out seven in the longest outing of his career. Martinez homered off starter Bob Tewksbury in the second inning and he and Glenallen Hill

hit back-to-back homers off Tewksbury in the seventh. Tewksbury (2-3) surrendered all four runs and six hits over seven innings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones had a very happy 26th birthday indeed, batting 4-for-5 and scoring the winning run on Javier Lopez's double in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Atlanta Braves won their sixth straight home victory by edging the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-5 Friday.

In the ninth, Jones led off with a single against Russ Springer (1-1). Andres Galarraga drew a walk and Lopez followed with the winning hit. Lopez also had a two-run homer and Galarraga added a solo shot for the Braves, who have won four straight games.

Dodgers 12, Cubs 4

In Los Angeles, Mike Piazza tied a National League record with his third grand slam this month in a nine-run second inning and Todd Zentz went 3-for-4 with three runs scored as the Dodgers crunched the Chicago Cubs 12-4. Owner of nine career grand slams, Piazza became the first NL player since Eric Davis in 1987 to hit three in a month.

Rookie right-hander Kerry Wood (1-2) allowed seven runs and two hits with four walks and two strikeouts. He had thrown 12 straight balls in the second until going to a 1-1 count on Piazza. He surrendered the grand slam two pitches later. Winning pitcher Ismael Valdes (2-3) yielded four runs and five hits, including two homers, with two walks and five strikeouts over seven innings.

Mets 3, Reds 2

In New York, Butch Huskey's infield chopper scored Rich Becker with the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth and Bobby Jones allowed two runs over eight strong innings as the Mets posted a 3-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Jones (1-2) allowed four singles and a double, walking two and striking

out three. John Franco tossed a perfect ninth for his fifth save in five opportunities. The Mets, who won in their final at-bat for the seventh time in 13 victories, are 8-3 in one-run games.

Brewers 7, Giants 5

In San Francisco, Jeremy Burnitz hit a three-run homer and tied the club record for April RBI and Geoff Jenkins homered in his first major-league game as the Milwaukee Brewers remained red-hot on the road with a 7-5 win over the struggling Giants. Burnitz, who hit his seventh homer and drove in his 22nd run of the month, tied the club record of Rob Deer, who had 22 RBIs in April 1987. Jenkins became the first player in Brewers history to homer in his first game and the second Milwaukee player ever to accomplish the feat.

Pirates 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Jason Schmidt pitched seven strong innings and Jason Kendall highlighted a sixth-inning rally with a two-run double, helping the Pittsburgh Pirates hand the Padres their first home loss of the season, 4-2. Schmidt (3-1) allowed two runs and five hits. The right-hander did not walk a batter while striking out seven. Ricardo Rincon worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Martins 5, Rockies 1

In Miami, rookie Brian Meadows pitched a complete game, allowing just one unearned run and nine hits, and Edgar Renteria's RBI double highlighted a three-run fourth inning as the Florida Marlins defeated the Colorado Rockies 5-1. Meadows (3-2) struck out five while walking just one to win his third straight. The 22-year-old right-hander has allowed one earned run over his last three starts, or 22 innings. Mark Thompson (1-2) yielded four runs - one earned - before leaving in the fourth with weakness in his right shoulder.

Astros 8, Expos 4

In Montreal, former Expo Moises

Alou homered and tied a career high with five RBIs and Carl Everett homered from both sides of the plate in a Houston Astros 8-4 victory. Shane Andrews had two hits, including his fifth homer, to extend his hitting streak to 11 games for the Expos, who were denied a season-high third straight win.

Friday's AL games: Boston 7, Cleveland 6; Anaheim 10, Tampa Bay 3; Oakland 10, Baltimore 1; New York 8, Detroit 4; Kansas City 11, Texas 4; Toronto 3, Chicago 1; Seattle 4, Minnesota 2.

Friday's NL games: Florida 5, Colorado 1; Houston 6, Montreal 4; Philadelphia 8, St. Louis 4; NY Mets 5, Cincinnati 2; Atlanta 6, Arizona 5; Los Angeles 12, Chicago Cubs 4; Pittsburgh 2, San Diego 2; Milwaukee 7, San Francisco 5.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
NY Yankees	13	5	.722	-
Boston	15	6	.714	-
Baltimore	12	9	.571	3
Tampa Bay	11	9	.556	3 1/2
Los Angeles	9	12	.429	6
Central Division				
Cleveland	13	8	.619	-
Kansas City	10	12	.455	3 1/2
Minnesota	8	13	.381	5
Chicago	7	13	.350	5 1/2
Detroit	4	15	.211	8
West Division				
Texas	13	7	.650	-
Seattle	11	11	.500	3
San Francisco	10	10	.500	3
Oakland	7	13	.350	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	7	.682	-
NY Mets	13	7	.650	1
Philadelphia	10	10	.500	4
Milwaukee	7	14	.333	7 1/2
Florida	7	15	.318	8
Central Division				
St. Louis	13	9	.591	2 1/2
Chicago	12	10	.545	3 1/2
Houston	12	10	.545	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	10	12	.455	5 1/2
Cincinnati	9	13	.409	6 1/2
West Division				
San Diego	14	5	.762	-
Los Angeles	10	11	.476	6
San Francisco	10	12	.455	6 1/2
Colorado	8	15	.348	9
Arizona	6	17	.261	11

SPORTS

in brief

New world weightlifting marks set at RG meet

Chinese weightlifters set seven world records at the World Weightlifting Championships for Students held over the weekend in Ramat Gan.

Jiang Yang, 24, competing in the 85 kilogram jerk category, lifted 218kg for his new record.

Among the women, Chen Yangling (58kg) set two new records of 95.5kg and then 97.5kg.

The other records went to Diao Weiwei (63kg) who lifted 100.5kg, Tang Wensang (69kg) with her 105.5kg lift, Li Xuezhao (48kg) who lifted 108kg and Tang Gongong (75kg) whose new record was 155kg.

Heather Chait

Coulthard on pole for San Marino GP

IMOLA, Italy (Reuters) - Briton David Coulthard will start in pole position at the San Marino Grand Prix today after his McLaren dominated the qualifying sessions.

Coulthard, looking to end a series of seven races without a victory, edged out his McLaren team-mate Mika Hakkinen by one-tenth of a second to claim his second successive pole and the seventh of his career after an exciting session at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari. In the process, he wrecked Hakkinen's hopes of starting his 100th Grand Prix in the prime grid position for a race likely to be decided by tyre-wear and durability in warm conditions.

It is the third time in four races this year that McLaren have filled the front row of the grid. Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari is third, the German's Ferrari teammate, Briton Eddie Irvine is fourth ahead of Austrian Alex Wurz in a Benetton and defending world champion Jacques Villeneuve of Canada in a Williams.

Pioline to meet Moya in Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO (Reuters) - Frenchman Cedric Pioline saved two match points against Spain's Alberto Berasategui on his way to his final of the men's Monte Carlo tennis Open yesterday.

The Wimbledon losing finalist fought back from 6-3 0-6 1-5 down to win 7-6 in the last set and make it into his second final here after the one he lost in 1993 to Sergi Bruguera.

Pioline, seeded 10th, will meet yet another Spaniard on Sunday, 14th seed Carlos Moya, who beat Dutchman Richard Krajicek 4-6 6-1 6-4.

It was an astonishing uphill battle for Pioline.

He looked completely lost on court after winning a tense first set in which there were no less than five breaks.

Winning the set seemed to wear him out as he found himself trailing Berasategui, the most consistent player on clay this season, 0-6 1-5 after losing nine games in succession.

The Frenchman, outpowered by his opponent's powerful forehands, even left the court at the beginning of the final set to receive treatment.

The break seemed to do the trick.

Pioline saved two match points on his serve in the seventh game and went on to win one game after the other as Berasategui, who had reached the final of his last two tournaments in Estoril and Barcelona, suddenly faltered.

On Friday, Boris Becker and Petr Korda, the grand old men of men's tennis, had their dreams shattered in the quarter-finals.

Becker came out of semi-retirement to show glimpses of his best form in the first set against Berasategui but the Spaniard had youth and clay court expertise on his side and won 6-7 7-5 6-1.

It was by far the best result of the season for Becker, who had not played three matches in succession since Wimbledon last year.

Korda lost to Dutchman Richard Krajicek 4-6 7-6 6-1 and failed for the fourth time this season to become world No. 1. The Czech needed to reach the final to replace injured Marcelo Rios at the top of the rankings.

Because of the loss, American Pete Sampras recovered the top spot without playing, only 24 hours after crashing out of the tournament against France's Fabrice Santoro 6-1 6-1.

NHL

Continued from Page 1

Stars 5, Sharks 2

In Dallas, Pat Verbeek scored twice and Derian Hatcher and Benoit Hogue had a goal and an assist apiece as the Stars overcame the loss of Mike Modano to post a 5-2 victory over the San Jose Sharks for a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference series. Jere Lehtinen added a power-play goal and Sergei Zubov had two assists for the Stars, who got 18 saves from former Shark Ed Belfour. Dallas, which was already without leading scorer Joe Nieuwendyk and offensive stalwart Greg Adams, lost Modano to a mild concussion with just over five minutes left in the second period.

Avalanche 5, Oilers 2

At Colorado, Peter Forsberg tied a club playoff record with five points

to power the Avalanche to a 5-2 rout of the Edmonton Oilers, evening their Western series at 1-1. Forsberg had two goals and three assists, tying the mark set by Risto Siltanen in 1987. Valeri Kamensky added his first two goals of the postseason and Joe Sakic returned from a one-game suspension to record a shorthanded goal and an assist for the Avalanche. Bill Guerin scored two power-play goals for the seventh-seeded Oilers.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Canadiens 3, Penguins 2 (OT)

In Pittsburgh, amid the unpredictable chain of events that occur each spring in playoff hockey, there usually are two certainties: Pittsburgh will lose any series opener, Montreal will win any overtime game.

Despite 78 minutes and 43 seconds of often unpredictable play, an overtime penalty shot and a strategic gamble by Montreal, tradition stood firm. The Canadiens withstood Stu

Barnes' tying goal late in the third period and a missed overtime penalty shot to beat the Penguins 3-2 Thursday night in their Eastern Conference series opener. Game 2 will be Saturday night.

Benoit Brunet won it with a slap shot at 18:43 of the extra period, assuring the Canadiens an NHL record 14th consecutive overtime playoff victory.

But they wouldn't have won if Penguins rookie Alexei Morozov's backhand shot hadn't changed off the right post 1:44 into overtime. It was only the third playoff penalty shot - and second miss - in Penguins history.

Now, the Penguins are fighting history again; they've won only twice in the last six series in which they lost Game 1.

"That's a tough, tough way to lose," Barnes said after Pittsburgh lost for the seventh time in its last nine play-

off series openers. "To play that well and not win is tough." Coach Kevin Constantine could pick anyone on the ice to take the penalty shot, which resulted from defenseman Patrice Brisebois intentionally knocking the net off its moorings.

Martin Straka initially lined up, but Constantine called him back and selected Morozov instead.

It wasn't the best of starts for an overachieving, second-seeded Penguins team that finished with a better record than a year ago with the now-retired Mario Lemieux in the lineup. But it was exactly the start the seventh-seeded Canadiens wanted, especially on the road.

Martin Rucinsky and Peter Popovic also scored for Montreal, while Brad Werenka scored shorthanded for Pittsburgh. The Penguins trailed 2-1 until Barnes got his stick on Jiri Sleg's shot in front of a crease crowded with players late in

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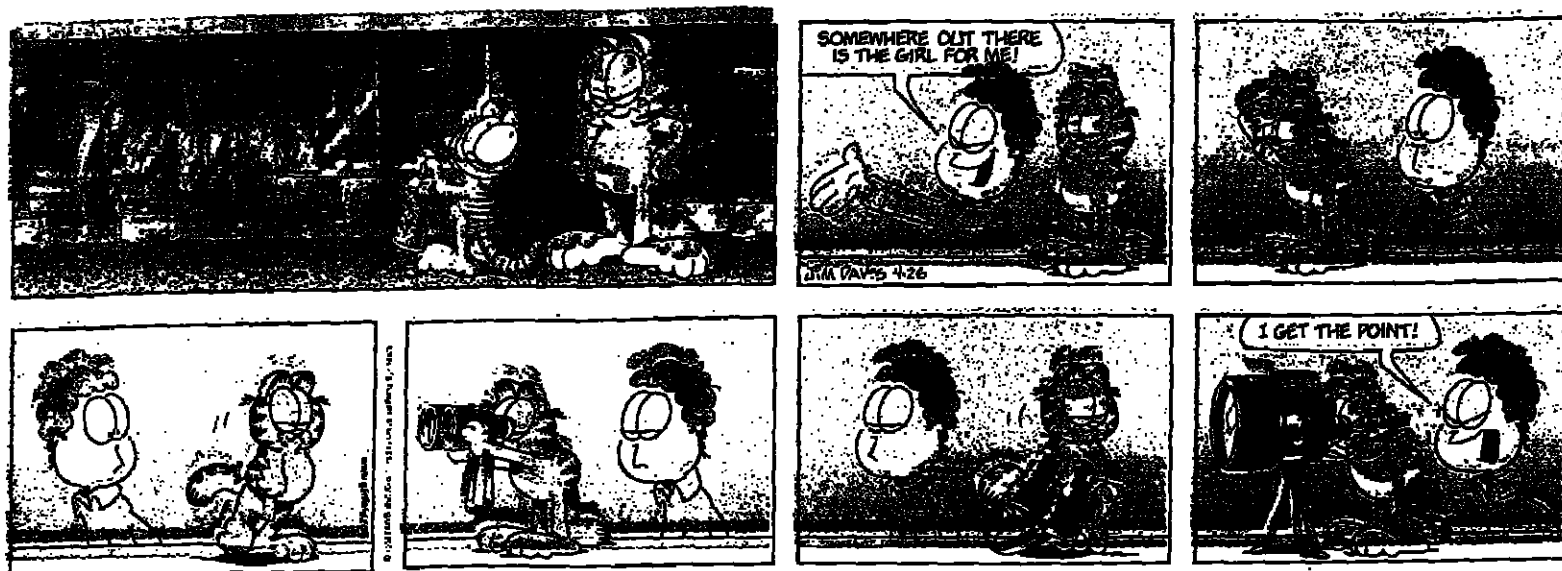
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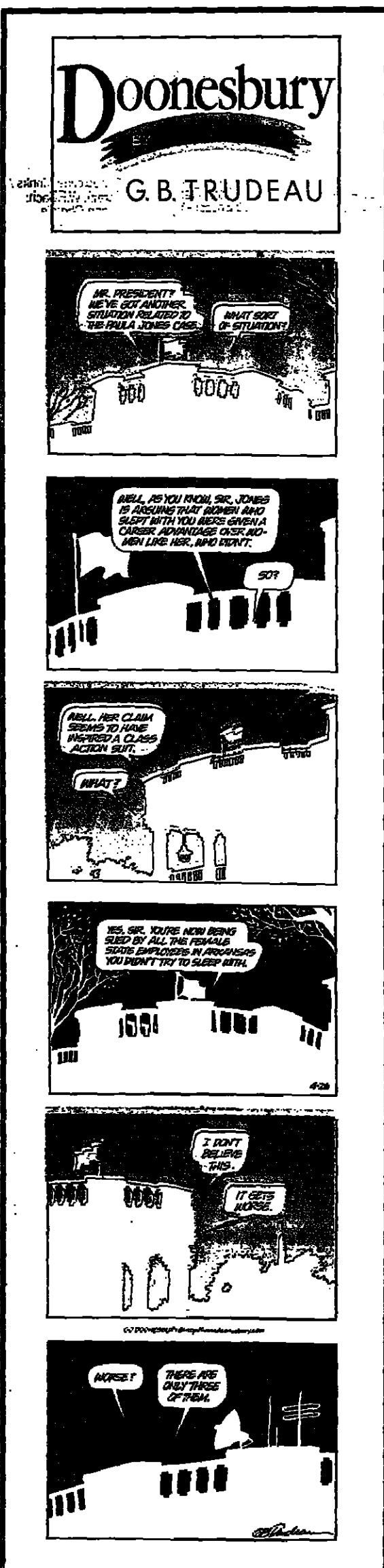
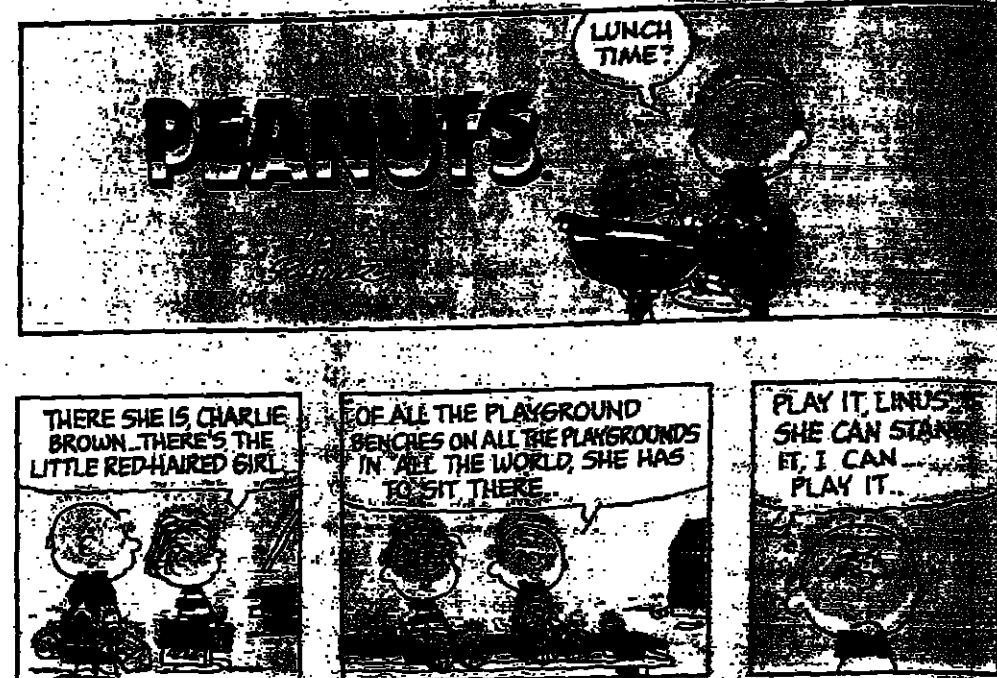
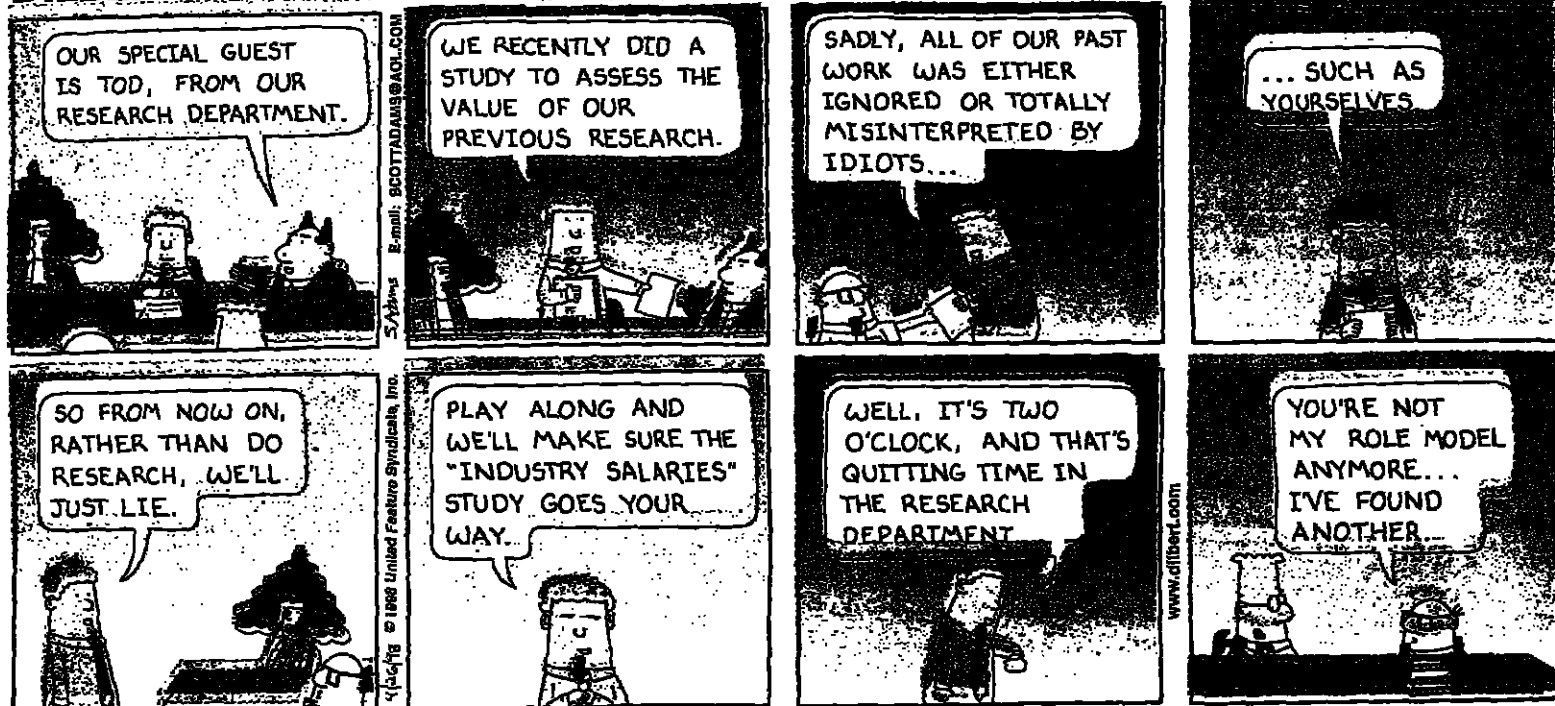
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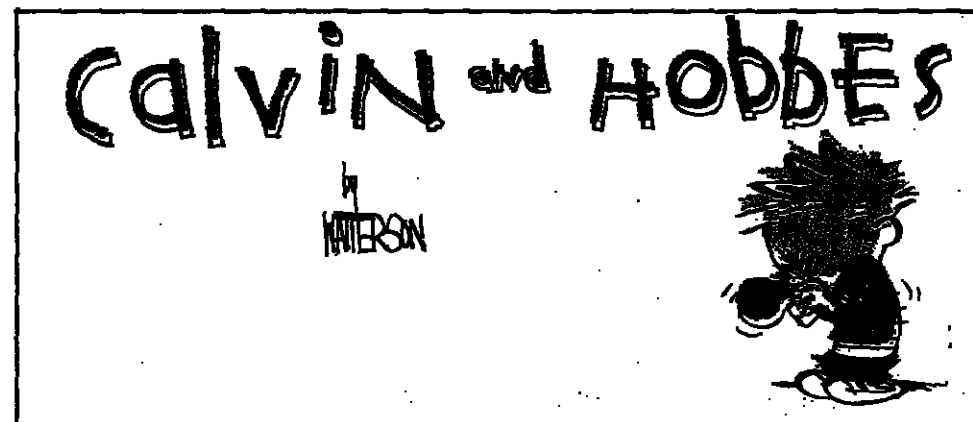
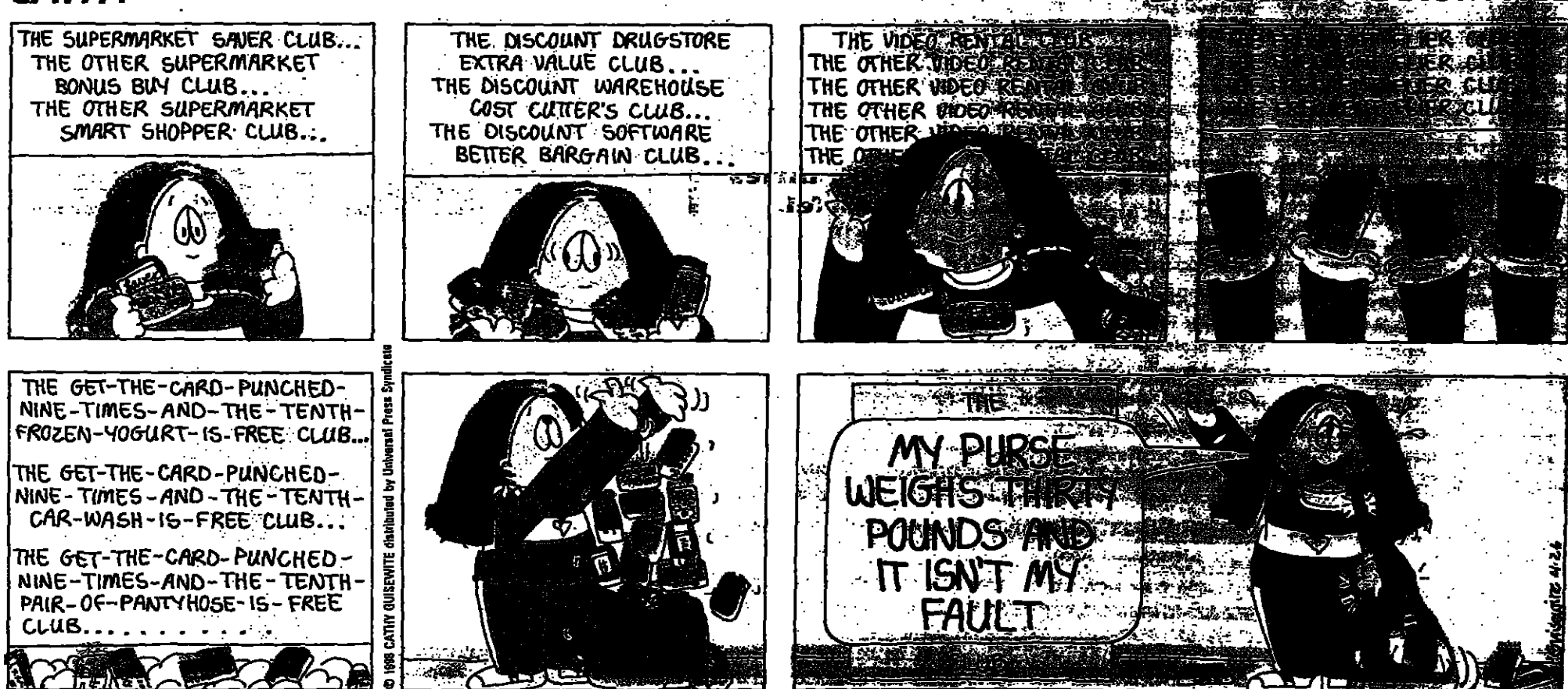
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DILBERT



CATHY



Inside

Cone wins on return to Yankee Stadium

Page 13

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Lindros leads Flyers to win over Sabres

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) — John LeClair's power-play goal with 3:32 left capped a wild third period and lifted the Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-2 victory over the Buffalo Sabres, leveling their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series 1-1 on Friday.

The Flyers had squandered a 2-0 lead in the third period before captain Eric Lindros slid a cross-crease pass to LeClair, who one-timed the puck past Dominik Hasek's extended glove hand.

Lindros and Chris Gratton had goals for the Flyers and Philadelphia got solid goaltending from Sean Burke, who stopped all 18 shots he faced over the first two periods. Hasek finished with 35 stops, including 14 in the final period. Michael Grosek and Dixon Ward scored seven minutes apart in the third to knot the contest.

Philadelphia played without Mike Sillinger and Petr Svoboda, both of whom were injured in Game 1 of the series.

Devils 3, Senators 1
At New Jersey, the Devils rebounded from a Game 1 loss to post a 3-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators. Doug Gilmour dominated for the top-seeded Devils, assisting on Dave Andreychuk's tying goal, scoring the go-ahead goal late in the second period and sealing the victory with an empty-net goal with 1:20 seconds to go.

Martin Brodeur made 12 third-period saves and 27 overall for New Jersey. Damian Rhodes stopped 29 shots for Ottawa while Chris Murray scored the lone goal for the Senators.

Coyotes 7, Red Wings 4
In Detroit, Jeremy Roenick tied an NHL record with two short-handed goals in a playoff game and finished with four points as the Phoenix Coyotes posted a 7-4 victory over the Red Wings, to balance their Western Conference series at 1-1. The Coyotes led 3-1 before Roenick scored twice just over six minutes apart in the second period. It was the fifth time in playoff history that one player has recorded two short-handed goals in one period.

Bruins 4, Capitals 3
In Washington, Darren Van Impe's second goal of the game, 54 seconds into double overtime, lifted the Boston Bruins to a 4-3 win over the Capitals, tying their Eastern series at one game apiece. The Capitals played most of the game without star forward Peter Bondra, who aggravated a right ankle injury after his fifth shift of the first period.

See NHL, Page 13

Bulls beat ailing Nets 96-93 in OT

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls found out Friday night just how tough it's going to be to defend their championship, needing overtime to beat the ailing New Jersey Nets 96-93 after blowing a 14-point, fourth-quarter lead.

These were the same Nets who Michael Jordan said couldn't win unless Chicago fell asleep. Well, it looks like the Bulls received a wake-up call.

Like he's done so many times before, it was Jordan who rescued the Bulls. With the score tied at 91 and less than a minute left, he stole the ball from Kerry Kittles and made a three-point play to put the Bulls ahead for good.

Jordan finished with 39 points and Scottie Pippen added 24. Chris Gatling led the Nets with 24.

Heat 94, Knicks 79
In Miami, Tim Hardaway scored 34 points and Eric Murdock added 16 off the bench as the Heat built a 24-point lead and then held on to win in Game 1 of their first-round series with New York.

There was no repeat of the disputed last-second call that cost New York a victory at Miami earlier this month, and very little of the bad behavior that has marked the rivalry.

The only punch was Miami's inside-outside combination, which overwhelmed New York in the early going.

Larry Johnson had 21 to lead the Knicks.

Sonics 108, Timberwolves 83
In Seattle, Vin Baker had 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the SuperSonics to a romp over Minnesota.

Gary Payton added 19 points and seven assists, and Detlef Schrempf tallied 17 points for the Sonics, while Kevin Garnett had 18 points and 18 rebounds and Stephon Marbury added 13 points for the Wolves.

Minnesota sealed its doom in the second quarter by shooting 3-for-24 as the Sonics pulled ahead 53-32 at the half. It was never close in the second half.

Lakers 104, Trail Blazers 102
In Inglewood, California, Kobe Bryant scored 11 of his 15 points in the last 8 1/2 minutes and Shaquille O'Neal had 18 of his 30 in the second half as Los Angeles rallied past Portland.

The Lakers went ahead for good by scoring nine straight points to turn a three-point deficit into a 93-87 lead with a little over three minutes remaining.

Gary Grant's 3-point shot with 4.7 seconds left made it 102-100 before Eddie Jones made two free throws to clinch the victory.

Nick Van Exel, Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell had 14 points each for the Lakers.

Isaiah Rider led the Blazers with 25 points.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Rockets 103, Jazz 90

Clyde Drexler scored 22 points, including 15 in the second half, and Kevin Willis had 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Houston Rockets shocked the top-seeded Utah Jazz 103-90 in Salt Lake City on the opening game of their first-round playoff series.

Utah entered the playoffs with homecourt advantage, a 12-game home winning streak and a six-game winning streak against the Rockets.

But it all evaporated as the Jazz, looking tentative and sloppy, shot 43.6 percent from the field and allowed the Houston frontcourt to score almost at will.

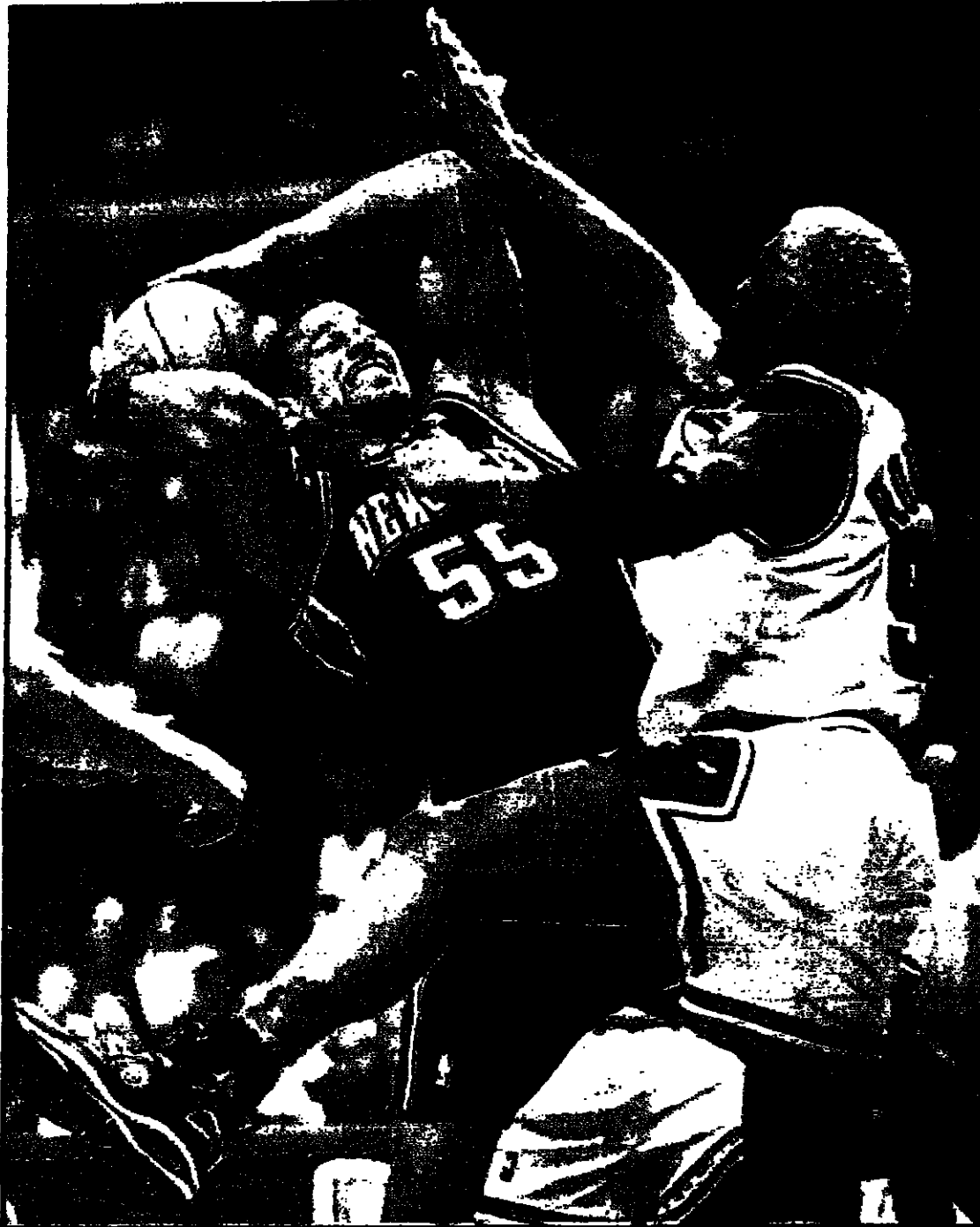
The series resumes Saturday night, when the Rockets will be looking to take a 2-0 lead as they try to become just the second No. 8 seed in playoff history to win a first round series.

Houston already has history on its side. Of the 128 best-of-5 series in NBA history, the team winning the first game has gone on to win the series 83 percent of the time.

Hornets 97, Hawks 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Glen Rice outdueled Steve Smith to help the Hornets end a pair of droughts.

Rice made 13 consecutive field-goal attempts during one stretch and wound up with 34 points on 15-for-19 shooting as Charlotte



CLOSE ENCOUNTER — Chicago's Dennis Rodman puts pressure on New Jersey's Jason Williams during first-quarter action of Game 1 in their playoff series on Friday.

defeated Atlanta for the first time in five games this season. The Hornets, who shot 59 per-

cent — their second-highest percentage of the season — also broke a five-game postseason losing

streak dating back nearly three years. Smith scored 16 of his 35 in the

first quarter for Atlanta, which had capitalized on superior speed from its guards to defeat Charlotte by an average of 17 points during the regular season.

The Hawks were able to do that again in the first half Thursday night, scoring 20 points on layups, dunks and tip-ins, but Charlotte cut that figure to eight in the second half.

Pacers 106, Cavaliers 77
In Indianapolis, the Pacers, back in the playoffs for the first time in two years, didn't look like they had skipped a beat.

Chris Mullin scored 20 points, including four 3-pointers, and Reggie Miller had 11 of his 19 points in the first quarter as Indiana trounced Cleveland.

The Pacers shot 69 percent (11-of-16) in each of the first two periods and were up 31-18 after a first quarter in which Cleveland was limited to 36 percent shooting (8-of-22) and had seven turnovers.

Indiana led by at least nine points the rest of the way and improved to 26-0 this season when scoring at least 100 points.

Shawn Kemp and Zdravko Radovic provided most of the offense for the Cavaliers. Kemp scored 25, but needed 22 shots to reach the figure. Radovic had 16 on 7-of-11 shooting.

Spurs 102, Suns 96

In Phoenix, Tim Duncan scored 28 of his 32 points in the second half, including 18 in the fourth quarter, as the Spurs made up two seven-point deficits night to beat the Suns.

Duncan showed his offensive talents with a variety of moves inside or on the baseline, especially down the stretch when he made five baskets and two free throws in a personal 12-6 run while being guarded by Hot Rod Williams, Phoenix's best big man defender, and Antonio McDyess.

David Robinson had 26 points, 15 rebounds, five assists and four blocks for the Spurs, who trailed 81-74 with 9:58 left, and Avery Johnson had 11 of his 22 points in the first quarter.

Kevin Johnson led the Suns with 18 points, and Jason Kidd had 17 points, 11 assists and six steals.

Dutch duo take Arsenal closer to league title

LONDON (Reuters) — A brilliant goal by Dennis Bergkamp and one from fellow Dutchman Marc Overmars gave Arsenal a 2-0 win at Barnsley yesterday to take the London club four points clear at the top of the English premier league.

Arsenal still have a game in hand on Manchester United, who play Crystal Palace tomorrow, and now need just six points from their four remaining games to clinch the title.

Bergkamp broke the Barnsley resistance in the 23rd minute with a brilliant curling shot from the edge of the box when there seemed no way through.

Arsenal made and missed several more chances before Overmars broke through to seal their eighth successive league victory in 76th minute.

"This was an important and difficult hurdle because you are playing a team that's battling to survive," said Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger. "They had to win the game." Of Bergkamp's superb strike, Wenger said: "He scores only best-sellers. It was a typical Bergkamp goal."

The defeat left Barnsley odds-on for relegation but Bolton Wanderers gave themselves a

lifeline with a 3-1 victory at Aston Villa.

Tottenham also collected a vital three points as headers from out-of-sorts strikers Juergen Klinsmann and Les Ferdinand gave them a 2-0 home win over Newcastle, still not safe themselves.

Everton remained in danger after losing 3-1 at home to Sheffield Wednesday and with a trip to Arsenal coming up next week, Howard Kendall's side may well face another do-or-die last day decider against Coventry.

Premier league	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	34	21	9	4	63	28	72
Manchester United	35	20	8	7	65	26	68
Chelsea	35	19	3	13	64	39	60
Liverpool	35	16	11	8	59	41	59
Blackburn Rovers	34	17	7	12	56	42	58
Sheff Wed	35	14	10	11	55	52	52
West Ham United	35	15	7	13	49	46	52
Aston Villa	34	15	6	13	45	47	51
Derby County	34	14	7	13	49	44	49
Coventry City	35	11	14	10	43	43	47
Southampton	34	14	5	17	49	52	47
Lancaster City	34	11	13	10	43	37	46
Sheff Wed	34	12	6	16	51	65	44
Wimbledon	35	10	12	13	31	29	42
Newcastle United	35	10	10	15	32	40	40
Nottingham Forest	34	10	10	14	37	53	40
Everton	34	9	12	15	40	51	39
Bolton Wanderers	34	8	13	15	36	57	37
Barnsley	34	10	5	21	37	79	35
Crystal Palace	34	7	8	19	31	60	29

Palace are bottom with 29 points. Barnsley have 35, and Bolton 37. Everton have 39 with Tottenham and Newcastle on 40.

Palace have four games left but the other strugglers all have two.

In an action-packed game at Elland Road, Darren Huckerby hit a superb hat-trick as Coventry drew 3-3 with Leeds.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink twice had Leeds ahead, each time for Huckerby to equalise with

Division one	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wokingham Forest	44	27	9	8	80	41	90
Sheff Wed	44	25	12	7	84	47	87
Charlton	45	26	9	10	80	49	87
Millwall	44	26	9	9	72	39	87
Ipwich	44	21	14	9	71	41	77
Sheff United	43	19	16	8	65	48	73
Birmingham	45	19	16	10	59	35	73
Wolverhampton	44	18	10	16	55	50	64
Swindon	45	18	6	19	70	69	60
West Bromwich Albion	45	16	12	17	60	55	60
Oxford	45	16	10	19	59	60	58
Barnsley	45	14	15	16	45	54	57
Crewe	44	17	5	22	54	61	56
Huddersfield	45	14	11	20	50	68	53
Northwich	45	13	13	19	51	69	52
Tranmere	44	13	13	18	49	53	52
Swindon	45	14	10	21	41	71	52
Queens Park Rangers	45	10	19	16	51	62	49
Bury	45	10	19	16	41	58	49
Port Vale	45	12	10	23	52	66	46
Preston	45	12	10	23	48	62	46
Stoke	45	11	13	21	42	69	46
Sheff Wed	45	11	12	22	51	55	45
Reading	44	11	9	24	39	76	42

excellent goals.

The tricky striker put Coventry ahead in the 62nd minute but good work again by Hasselbaink set up Harry Kewell to make it 3-3 in the 75th minute.

Chelsea moved above Liverpool into third place — eight points behind Manchester United — thanks to a 4-1 home victory over the Merseysiders.

Two goals from European Cup

Division two	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City	45	25	10	10	68	37	85
Walsley	44	22	16	6	63	39	82
Grimby	45	19	15	11	55	35	72
Fulham	45	20	10	15	59	41	70
Northampton	45	18	16	11	52	37	70
Gillingham	45	19	12	14	52	47	69
Bristol Rovers	45	19	10	16	68	63	67
Wrexham	45	17	16	12	52	50	67
Chesham	45	16	16	13	45	64	64
Bournemouth	44	17	12	15	54	49	63
Wigan	45	17	10	18	64	66	61
Blackpool	45	17	10	18	58	64	61
Barry	45	14	16	15	52	58	58
Oldham	44	14	15	15	57	57	57
Wycombe	45	13	14	18	50	53	57
Preston	45	14	14	17	54	55	56
Millwall	45	14	13	18	42	52	55
Luton	45	13	15	17	57	62	54
Walsley	45	14	12	19	43	51	54
Bradford	45	11	17	17	49	49	50
Plymouth	45	12	13	20	54	68	48
Doncaster	44	12	12	20	50	61	48
Carlisle	45	12	8	25	55	70	44
Southend	45	11	10	24	46	76	43

Promoted: Bristol City and Walsley
Relegated: Southend

Winners' Cup hero Mark Hughes, a first of the season for captain Steve Clarke and one for Tore Andre Flo gave Chelsea a deserved victory. Karlheinz Riedle replied for Liverpool.

Norway's Egil Ostenstad scored two as Southampton beat West Ham 4-2 at Upton Park while Blackburn against

Wimbledon ended 0-0. Derby Rangers close in as Celtic held by Hibs

Rangers showed they will not give up their Scottish title without a fight as they beat Hearts 3-0 on Saturday to move within a point of Celtic, held 0-0 at home by bottom club Hibernian.

In a dress-rehearsal for next month's Scottish Cup final, Rangers were deserved winners against third-placed Hearts in Edinburgh.

Two goals by Gennaro Gattuso and one for Jorge Albert, all in the second half, gave Rangers maximum points. They trail Celtic by one, with both teams having an identical goal difference.

Celtic, seeking their first championship since 1988, looked edgy against Hibs, who are almost certainly relegated.

Scottish Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	34	21	7	6	61	23	70
Rangers	34	20	9	5	74	36	69
Hibernian	34	18	9	7	64	43	63
Dundee	34	12	10	12	38	51	46
St Johnstone	34	12	9	13	42	54	45
Dundee United	34	8	12	14	42	56	36
Aberdeen	34	8	11	15	35	50	35
Dundee United	34	7	13	14	40	54	34
Perth	34	7	10	17	43	59	34
Hibernian	34	6	11	17	36	59	29

* Three points deducted for financial irregularities

Hap. TA thrash Beersheba, Ashkelon relegated

By DEREK FATTAL, OFER ROMEN-ABELS and ORI LEWIS

The 28th round of the National League campaign finally settled the fate of Hapoel Ashkelon who are relegated after just one season in the top flight, after losing 2-1 to Hapoel Kfar Sava on Friday.

While the round produced a record number of 32 goals, the title race remains as tight as ever as both leaders Beitar Jerusalem and second-place Hapoel Tel Aviv scored respective wins against Bnei Yehuda and Hapoel Beersheba to maintain the status quo at the top.

The two losing sides remain poised at the bottom of the table under the shadow of the guillotine. Their discomfort is shared also by Hapoel Beit She'an and Hapoel Jerusalem who suffered heavy losses away from home. Beit She'an's 4-1 defeat against Maccabi Tel Aviv means that the Tel Avivians will continue to grace the National League next season, while Ironi Rishon LeZion's 5-1 win over the Jerusalemites ends their relegation worries.

Maccabi Haifa ended 1-0 victors in the Haifa derby, somewhat against the run of play.

Hap. Beersheba 1, Hap. TA 4
Hapoel Tel Aviv's title challenge continues thanks to an impressive second-half performance that left some Negev fans in tears. Prior to

the break the southerners — with Marco DiCostanzo and Yossi Benayoun looking particularly sharp — manufactured the better approach work, and Alon Sagron should have headed in from one of their plays.

The Tel Avivians turned from toothless scavengers to deadly predators with the scoring of their first goal in the 55th minute when Gyorgy Drasila added a delicious curve to a free kick on the edge of the area that whipped inside Shaul Smadja's far post. Ten minutes later Nir Shitrit crossed from Beersheba's Ehud Kahila in the area and ended his run by hammering the ball home with frightening force.

The Beersheba defense was in tatters by the time Amir Avigdor suffered the indignity of edging a short Shitrit cross from the left into his own goal in the 79th minute as he tried to prevent the ball reaching Drasila.

Substitute Alon Rif got one goal back for the home side, but even this was cancelled out in the final minute when referee Amit Klein gave Tel Aviv a dubious penalty which Shitrit converted for his 17th goal of the season.

Beit Jerusalem 3, Bnei Yehuda 1
Beitar Jerusalem eventually took all three points but gave their fans amongst the 12,000-plus crowd cause for heart palpitations along the way, as relegation strugglers Beitar

Yehuda fought fervently to protect their National League future.

The Haikva Quarter state packed defense in the first half to knock Beitar out of their usual swagger.

A weak shot by Itzhak Pishont was intercepted by Stefan Sallio whose